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## OUR NEIGHBOURS.

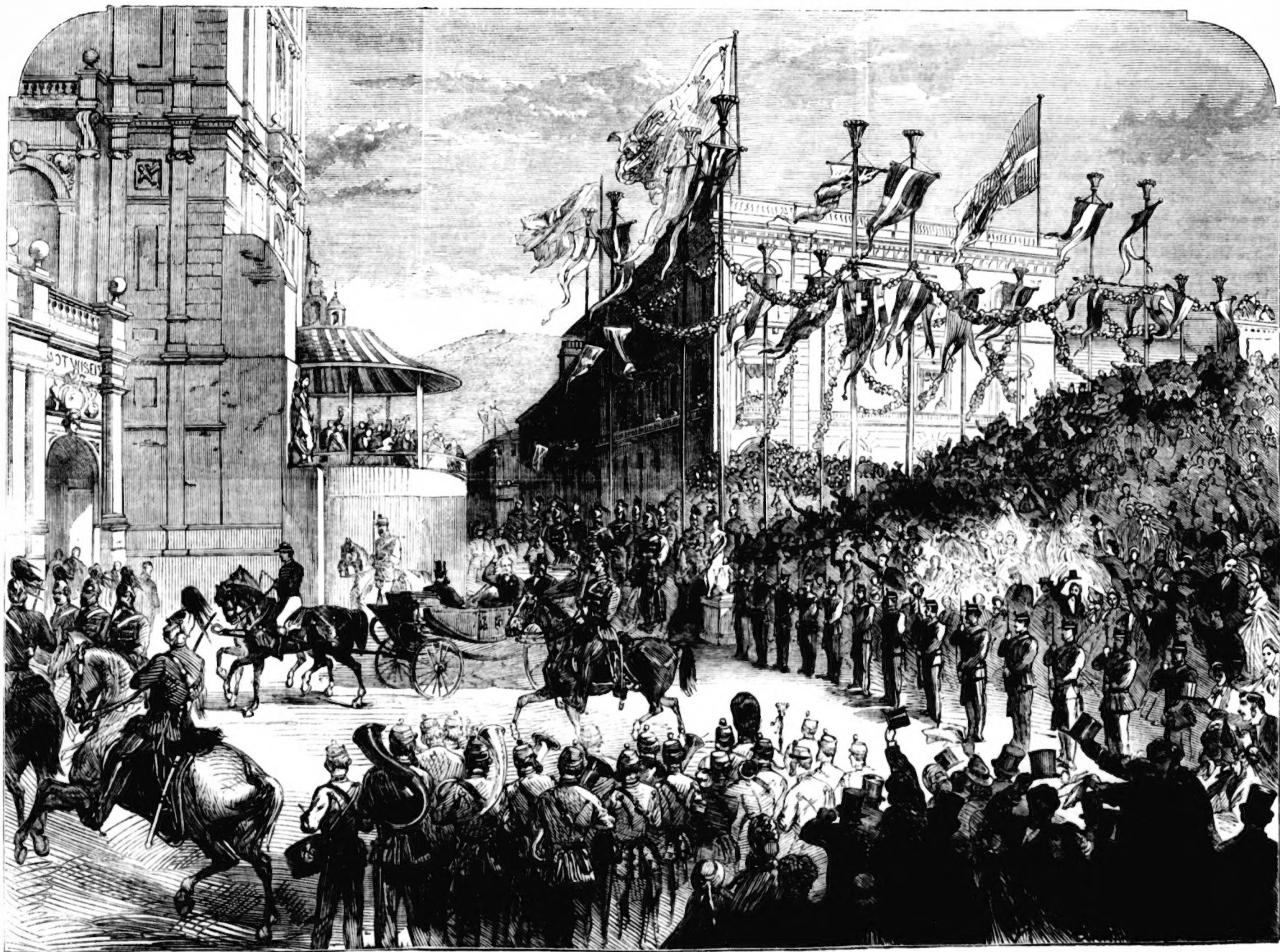
It is so very important that we should remain on peaceful terms with our neighbours, and so difficult to do so in this most meddlesome and military period, that we ought to keep the strictest watch upon what is called the progress of events abroad. Changes happen almost daily. The chances of peace and war shift as often as the wind; and, if a press is good for anything at all, it should do at least as much for politics as Admiral Fitzroy does for the weather, and keep a well-ordered system of danger-signals going.

Making this our business, we have first to observe that the breeze which threatened us from the North lately appears more and more likely to blow out in words, or, at any rate, to be diverted from this country. We bungled into it by bad statesmanship, which, however, stands corrected by the result; and we shall probably hear no more, for many a day, of that sublime "force of opinion" which, concentrated into "diplomatic action," was to silence Prince Gortschakoff and convert his master. The Prince is not silenced—quite the contrary; nor is his master converted; and, having in a very authoritative and dignified manner stepped into a quarrel with remonstrances which never had the smallest chance of being listened to, we have only now to step out of it again, with the remonstrances pinned to our backs. Of course we can fight; but this was never contemplated in that high scheme of politics which we ventured to ridicule

from the beginning, and of which we trust we have seen the last example.

What the exact position may be which our statesmen have now taken on the Polish question is not publicly known yet. But there appears to be no doubt that it is a position on the safe side of the fence, and we are heartily glad of it. The grand diplomatical alliance, offensive and defensive, which England made with France and Austria was a blunder, because it was very pretentious, very threatening, and altogether futile; but for reasons some of which we explained last week, we have no wish to see that alliance carried to a logical conclusion. Logical, we mean, in a French interpretation; and that means a warlike alliance, offensive and defensive, against Russia—and Prussia. From such a war we should expect no permanent good and a great deal of mischief *politically*; and as England has no chance of profiting by the mischief, even if she had the mind, the enterprise had better be left to those who stand in the enjoyment of both. Not that France shows any clearer disposition to begin upon it. The conquest of Russia—and Prussia—is not an easy thing under the most favourable circumstances, and even by a whole brotherhood of nations; and the French Emperor sees probably that, if he were to be successful, the territorial gains he promises himself might have to be disputed over again with a Power which now declines to help him to them.

Besides, the French Emperor has other work on hand apparently—work which Europe is content to see him perform, with only a certain curiosity about its probable cost. Mexico is conquered—that is to say, it is occupied by an army big enough to keep the country in subordination. It is declared to be no longer a Republic but an Empire; and an Austrian Archduke has been chosen to sit upon the little volcano of a throne set up there. Now, the august person of this Prince will doubtless suffice to fill the crater, but it is too much to suppose that it will have weight enough of itself to keep down revolutionary fires. That task must be attempted by an Austrian army, if the new Emperor means to reign with any dignity; by a French army, if he is content not to rule at all, but to play puppet; or by a joint occupation, which must end in a quarrel. This being the state of the case, the *cui bono* of this most recent conquest of Mexico appears doubtful to humble journalists like ourselves. What we do understand is, that it is high time Mexico were delivered from the anarchy which has so long made the country poor and odious. A strong, respectable Government there would be a blessing to the world, for it is a rich country, capable of contributing much to the world's comfort. But what does France—what do the Powers who propose to set up this desirable Government—expect to gain for themselves in return for the risk, and responsibility, and expense of supporting it? The blessings of humanity will scarcely compensate them. What else?



THE PRINCE OF WALES AT HALIFAX.—ARRIVAL OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS AT THE TOWNHALL.



The *New York World* has an answer to the question. France (says this journal) has determined to be absolute ruler in Mexico, which country, under her régime, will be one of the strongest Powers on the American continent. "French enterprise and a steady Government will develop her magnificent natural resources, while, politically, Mexico will be France. French policy will control her political relations; French arms will back up all her national quarrels;" and then France "will naturally aim to extend her dominion in Mexico southward, until it covers Central America and the isthmus, one of the fairest regions of the globe and embracing one of the finest natural seats of commerce. A canal across the isthmus is not too difficult for the resources of modern engineering; and if France held such a gateway, she could lay under tribute the commerce of Asia and Europe, as well as that of the American States on the North and South Pacific."

All this is very well; but what it comes to is the voluntary creation of difficulties too great, and enemies too strong, even for France. There are rumours, indeed, of an understanding between the Confederate States and Napoleon III., by which the Emperor is to assist in setting up Secession on condition of being helped to set himself up in Mexico. In the Northern States such an arrangement is generally believed in, and we can scarcely doubt that if it were carried through both parties would triumph over the opposition of the Federal Government. The Confederate States would be established, and established as strong supporters of French domination in Mexico. But this would cost France another war, to begin with—a war not likely to end without great losses, and far less likely to settle the matter even then. If we consider how little disposed the Federal Americans are to tolerate foreign influence on their continent, how exceedingly inconvenient the Confederate States themselves would find it after a time, how rapid is the growth of power in America, and how easy it is to get up revolutions in Mexico, it really does seem that all the French Emperor can safely promise himself is a twenty years' lease of a sickly, lawless, turbulent country. Give peace to America, North and South, and twenty years will see her too strong for the French in Mexico. What twenty years will probably do for France or her Emperor, we will not even hint at; only if the Emperor should die, we shall see what his Mexican schemes, among others, come to then. But Cesar is always to live for ever; and he still believes, in spite of common-sense and experience, that good, strong, lasting empires are to be cut out with the sword at any time.

It is a miserable mistake, always; and this time it may prove an unlucky one for us. We are not concerned with the conquest of Mexico directly—we might even find good reasons to rejoice over it; only it seems to have quite determined the Northerners to make an attack on Canada at their earliest convenience. The argument which animates their press seems to be this:—"France and England have supported the rebellion from the beginning; it never could have become so formidable but for their sympathy. Now, France proposes to take active part with the rebels, in exchange for their countenance in Mexico. Of course we shall have to fight France in that case. Not only must the rebels be crushed—if possible—but the great Monroe doctrine must be upheld. If we are beaten, as for the time we may be, then we really must turn about and seize Canada, for it will never do to allow this almighty nation to be straitened by rebellion and Frenchified empires on the one hand and a colony of monarchical Englishmen on the other."

And thus it is that, though we be ever so politic and impartial, we are in constant danger from our neighbours; and, if those rumours of French-Confederate understanding which fly about so thickly just now are fathered by fact, our statesmen have a difficult time before them. Up to this point the country has every reason to be satisfied with their management; in return, the country must be careful to give them the support of a cool temper under all provocations to indignation on the one hand or enthusiasm on the other.

#### OBITUARY.

**SIR FREDERICK SLADE.**—Sir Frederick Slade, Bart., Q.C., died on Saturday night last, at his seat near Bridgwater. The learned gentleman's decease was quite unexpected, and is supposed to have been the result of apoplexy. He was highly esteemed in professional and private life.

**MR. BOTFIELD.**—This gentleman expired on Friday week, at his residence in Grosvenor-square, after a protracted illness. The deceased was the only son of the late Beriah Botfield, Esq., of Northamptonshire, by Charlotte, daughter of Dr. Withering, of Edgerton Hall. He was born in 1807, and married, in 1858, Isabella, second daughter of Sir Baldwin Leighton, of Loton Park, Shropshire; was High Sheriff of Northamptonshire in 1831; was appointed a Deputy-Lieutenant of that county in 1841, and of Shropshire in 1855; and was first returned for Ludlow in May, 1840, and sat till the general election in 1847, when he was defeated, but was again elected in 1857.

**J. W. GILBERT, F.R.S.**—Mr. J. W. Gilbert, F.R.S., who held a high position in the city of London as a financier, died a few days ago. In early life Mr. Gilbert was desirous of obtaining employment in the Civil Service, but, notwithstanding promises were held out to him, he failed in that object. He became a clerk in a banking-house, and in 1827 published his "Practical Treatise on Banking." Shortly after this he was appointed manager of a branch of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, but retired from that post to take the general management of the London and Westminster Bank, the responsible duties of which he discharged with much ability until 1859. While managing this bank a handsome service of plate was presented to Mr. Gilbert by gentlemen interested in banking business, in recognition of the services he had rendered to the principle of joint-stock banking, and on his retirement from the office of general manager, he was elected a director of the company. Mr. Gilbert was the author of many works, amongst which may be mentioned "The History and Principles of Banking," "A History of Banking in Ireland," "The Logic of Banking," "Banking and the Currency," "History of Banking in America," "Logic for the Million." He was a Fellow of the Royal Society; and in the International Statistical Congress, held in July, 1860, he was appointed one of the committee of the section of commercial statistics, and a paper read by him. "On the Statistics of English Banks," on that occasion was printed in the "Transactions" of the Congress. Mr. Gilbert was sixty-nine years of age.

**THE NEW QUEEN OF MADAGASCAR** is reported to have sent a letter to the Emperor Napoleon, announcing her accession to the throne, and again repeating a desire to keep up friendly relations with France.

**THE SCOTIA**, belonging to the British and North American Royal Mail Ship Company, on her last voyage to New York made the passage in nine days, two hours, and fifteen minutes—being the fastest passage previously made by nine hours and forty-five minutes.

## Foreign Intelligence.

### FRANCE.

The Mexican question occupies a large share of the attention of the Parisian press, and *La France* positively asserts that the Archduke Maximilian of Austria will accept the new crown, and that the ratification of the choice made by the Assembly of Notabilities will not be submitted to universal suffrage, but to the 6000 municipalities which exist in Mexico. The *France* further observes that the basis of the arrangement will be the payment by Mexico within six years of the cost of the war and the sums owing to French creditors; a French army of occupation to be maintained for a period to be agreed upon, at the expense of Mexico.

Public feeling in Paris remains excited by the all-absorbing question of peace or war; and a recent circular issued by the Archbishop to his clergy, containing some bellicose sentiments about the "heroic and unfortunate Poles" and an invocation of the Almighty's blessing on the arms of France, has acted like oil upon the fire.

The Emperor's fête occurs to-day (Saturday), when an official reception was to take place. A private reception was to be held at St. Cloud last night, to which, however, only a small number of the chiefs of the diplomatic body had been invited. Some of the papers say that the reception of Saturday would only include the Ministers, and not the Corps Diplomatique. A review of the garrison of Paris was to have taken place in the Champ de Mars, but this has been postponed in consequence of the excessive heat of the weather.

### PRUSSIA.

The King of Prussia has summoned the Crown Prince by telegraph to Gastein, where the Prince arrived on the 10th inst. The Prussian papers believe that a consultation of high political importance is to take place. One journal, however, denies that the Prince's visit has anything to do with the Frankfort Conference.

### RUSSIA.

The Emperor has already returned to St. Petersburg. His Majesty did not go very far into Finland. After staying a few hours at Helsingfors and receiving a very moderate share of enthusiasm on the part of the citizens, the thought could not but strike the Emperor that, while it was too late to conciliate Swedish feeling, it would be unpleasant, to say the least of it, to evoke an unfavourable demonstration by his presence. So though the town had been decorated with garlands according to order, and the Russian Archbishop greeted his Sovereign according to duty, the Emperor soon started for Tawasthus to review the soldiers and inspect the central place of his Finnish defences. The papers—both official and non-official—are at liberty to talk of war as an immediate contingency in Finland, if not the western provinces generally; and difficult it would be to veil the secret of the Government, seeing that it has been advertised and hawked about in every garrison by the dispatch of 40,000 men to the duchy, and the throwing up of batteries in every southern bay admitting of a landing. Just now the finishing touch is being given to the harbour of Helsingfors by sinking rocks at the entrance, and blocking up all access except a narrow channel for temporary purposes.

### SWITZERLAND.

An Ultramontane meeting has been held in the canton of Aargau, at which a petition was drawn up praying for a revision of the Federal Constitution. Endeavours will be made to obtain 50,000 signatures to it, that being the number necessary to ensure its being taken into consideration.

### GREECE.

The new Greek Monarch is not to take the style and title borne by his predecessor—namely, that of King of Greece—but is to be officially known as "King of the Hellenes." The Ionian Parliament has been dissolved, and a new one summoned to meet in forty days, to decide on the question of annexation to the Hellenic Kingdom.

### TURKEY.

Russian troops are being concentrated at Gumri. The Porte has demanded explanations from the Russian Government on this account.

The old seraglio at Constantinople has been totally destroyed by fire.

The inland Custom-houses have been abolished, and an octroi substituted.

### CHINA AND JAPAN.

In China, the Anglo-Chinese contingent, under Major Gordon, operating against the Taipings, had captured the city of Quinsan, which is situated between Taitsan and Socho. The rebels were in great force; but their defeat was signal and complete, and their loss estimated by thousands.

Accounts from Japan reach to the 27th of May, up to which time there had been no resort to hostilities, and it was understood that a further indulgence of eighteen days had been granted by the British Representative. Hopes are entertained that peace will be preserved; but they seem to rest on no very solid foundation, for the native preparations for war are conducted briskly at Nagasaki, in the neighbourhood of which the Prince of Satsuma had concentrated an army of 60,000 men. The English naval force on the station was ample for the protection of our countrymen and their interests; and the additional delay, whilst favourable to the Japanese, would also enable Admiral Kuper to augment his squadron, and give time for the arrival of a considerable body of troops from India.

### THE POLISH INSURRECTION.

We have accounts of various encounters between the insurgents and Russians in different parts of the country. An engagement took place, on the 6th, at Polichna, in the palatinate of Lublin, in which the insurgents, under Krynski and Wagner, were victorious. They pursued the Russians for a distance of two miles. The loss of the insurgents was inconsiderable.

The insurgents under Collier attacked a squadron of Uhlans on the 8th inst. at Raszyn, near Warsaw, liberating a convoy of prisoners. The Uhlans fled to Warsaw. Grabowski suffered a defeat on the 7th inst. near Grodenik. The insurgents are said to have gained a decided victory near Janow, and to have dispersed the Russians; while they are reported to have been beaten near Mazow. The Russians were defeated by the insurgents, on the 30th ult., near Radom, in the palatinate of Lublin. The Russians, under the command of Baumgarten, have been defeated by the insurgents Zielski and Grzymales. The official Russian report admits the defeat of the Imperial troops, but states that the number of insurgents, amounting to 2000, was superior to that of the Russians.

Telegraphic communication with Warsaw is again interrupted in all directions, and apprehensions of a rising in the city are once more entertained.

It is asserted that the seat of the National Polish Government is at Paris, and that Prince Czartoryski is at its head. "His party has been ordered to agitate to the effect that he may be proclaimed King of Poland as soon as France shall have declared war against Russia." The National Government has decreed a forced loan of 21,000,000 florins, to be raised among the most wealthy capitalists of the country, for the purposes of the insurrection. The decree says:—

This loan will be effected in issues of seven millions each, which will be set in course of exchange according as they are required by special decrees of the National Government. A national debt commission of three persons is appointed, composed of Prince Ladislaus Czartoryski, Joseph Ordega, and Dr. Severin Galezowski. The business of this commission will be:— 1. To keep a great book of the national debt. 2. To prepare the obligations and enter them in the great book. 3. To control the obligations issued. The financial department of the National Government is empowered, by virtue of the present decree, to negotiate the distributed obligations, and to place them in the national treasury. A corresponding control will be maintained, and the redemption of the debt or the incorporation of it with the permanent debts of the country will follow at the proper time.

## THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

### WAR NEWS.

Advices from New York to the 1st inst. state that the army of the Potomac, under General Meade, is once more on the Rappahannock, in the vicinity of Falmouth; that the Confederate forces, with General Lee at their head, after effecting a passage out of the Shenandoah Valley by Chester Gap, have assumed a defensive position on the old well-fought ground between Culpepper and Gordonsville; and that the Federals had seized the heights in the rear of Fredericksburg. On the morning of the 28th ult. Federal pickets were driven in near Amisville, and the indications were that the Federal outposts were liable to be forced at any moment by superior detachments of Confederates. The belief existed among the officers of Meade's army that Lee was preparing for a battle on the Rappahannock.

A rumour was afloat that General Rosencranz had captured Chattanooga on the 16th ult.; but the information on which it rests is not mentioned, and later dates represent the city as still in possession of the Confederates. Brashear has undoubtedly fallen into the hands of the Federals; but it is a place of little importance from a military point of view, and can have no effect upon the relative positions of the belligerents.

A body of 2500 Confederates, under Pegram and Scott, had crossed the Kentucky River, but were attacked at Paris and repulsed after severe fighting. Martial law was proclaimed in Kentucky in consequence of the invasion of that State by the Confederates.

The guerrilla Morgan had at last been captured by the Federals in Ohio, and his band is this time asserted to have been completely dispersed.

General Joseph Johnston was reported to have been heavily reinforced from the army of General Bragg, and to be fortifying Meridian and the Ohio and Mobile Railroad, at Okalona, for the defence of Mobile. A report that General Johnston had refused to obey the orders of President Davis was current in New York, but does not appear to be well-founded.

### THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.

The repulse of the Federal attacks upon Fort Wagner between the 18th and 23rd of July is officially reported to the Confederate Government by General Beauregard, and confirmed by the Federal accounts brought by steamers to Fortress Monroe. On the 18th, after a furious bombardment of the fort for eleven hours by the Federal land batteries and the ironclads, an assault was ordered by General Gilmore, repeated and desperate attempts were made to dislodge the Confederates, and at one time the Federals had succeeded in mounting their flag upon the parapet of the fort, but they were driven back by the terrific fire of the garrison. Two regiments of negro troops who participated in the attack, and who were, as usual, placed in the van, are described as having fought with great bravery. It is stated that the sight of them so infuriated the Confederates that wherever they appeared the whole fire of the fort was concentrated upon them until they retired out of range. The Federal loss in the assault was upwards of 2000 in killed, wounded, and prisoners.

The *Richmond Despatch* of the 27th ult. contains despatches from Charleston to the 25th, reporting that the bombardment of Fort Wagner had been recommenced on the 24th, and continued heavily throughout that day, the only result being the killing of three men and the wounding of six others. During the ensuing night firing was carried on by Forts Wagner and Sumter against the Federal position on the island, the Federals occasionally responding. On the 28th ult. the "monitors" suspended operations entirely. The last accounts state that General Gilmore had succeeded in erecting a line of batteries 250 yards from Fort Wagner, and three heavy guns had been mounted within a mile and a quarter of Fort Sumter, upon which they were to open fire on the 29th ult. He had, however, abandoned for the present the idea of taking Fort Wagner, the shells making but a slight impression upon the sand of which the fort is composed; but the General was confident that his guns would breast Fort Sumter.

The *New York Tribune* correspondent at Washington states that it is ascertained, from private sources, that General Gilmore's losses at Charleston by sickness and casualties amount to about one third of his original force. He adds that the authorities at Washington are determined to reduce that stronghold, and will send such supports and reinforcements to General Gilmore as may be needed for that purpose.

### GENERAL NEWS.

It had been determined to enforce the draught at New York. Operations were to commence on the 3rd inst., and the Government was said to be prepared for any emergency. In Kentucky the military authorities had announced their intention, if it should be necessary to impress property, to take it first from those opposed to furnishing more men and money to put down the rebellion.

The Hon. John Jay Crittenden, the author of the Crittenden resolutions of compromise between the North and South, which were rejected by the Republican members of the Border State Convention immediately previous to the breaking out of the war, died at Frankfort, Kentucky, on the 26th ult., at the age of seventy-seven.

Frauds upon the Government to the amount of 1,000,000 dollars had been discovered in the contracts for clothing, subsistence, supplies, and horses, in the late operations in Pennsylvania.

The *New York Herald* gives currency to the report that Mr. Seward has informed Earl Russell that, if privateers continue to be fitted out in England, Federal war-vessels will not regard British ports as a protection to such ships; and the *New York Tribune* asserts that the Washington Government has intimated that to allow the sailing of privateers from this country will be regarded as an unfriendly act.

On the 20th ult. Seabrook Island was evacuated by the Federals. Direct intercourse between the north-western States and New Orleans, via the Mississippi, has been authorised to all parties who will furnish bonds ensuring the legitimacy of their traffic.

The amount of property destroyed by the Federals in a late raid into North Carolina is estimated at 5,000,000 dollars.

The Courthouse at Jackson, Mississippi, had been much damaged by an attempt of the Federals to blow it up, and great destruction was committed upon the railway-tracks, rolling stock, and machine shops. In consequence of information given by a negro, the private library and correspondence of President Davis had been seized by the Federals at Jackson. The account of the capture states that thousands of volumes of books and bushels of letters and papers from both Northern and Southern statesmen upon the subject of secession, some of them dated as far back as 1852, had been brought into camp. Many of the more private writers had accepted the division of the Union as a foregone conclusion, but disagreed as to how and when it should take place.

President Davis had issued a proclamation, appointing Friday, Aug. 21, for a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer.

Vice-President Stephens, who had been making a tour of the Confederate States, addressed the people of Charlotte, North Carolina, on the 17th ult. He expressed great confidence in the military genius and patriotism of General Lee, and stated that vast quantities of supplies had been obtained by his invasion of Pennsylvania. In alluding to the fall of Vicksburg and Fort Hudson, Mr. Stephens said that the Confederacy had survived severer blows in the loss of New Orleans, Island No. 10, and Fort Pillan, and that, should even Mobile, Charleston, Savannah, and Richmond be captured, these calamities would not prevent the ultimate independence of the South if the people would but continue its support of the Government. He concluded by saying that the only terms on which a permanent peace can be obtained are final and complete separation from the North.

One item of news, most important if true, is that President Davis has proposed an offensive and defensive alliance to Louis Napoleon, who is tempted with the acknowledgment by the Confederate Government of the French protectorate in Mexico and a modification of the "domestic institution."

### EVADING THE DRAUGHT IN NEW ENGLAND.

According to a Connecticut journal, the exemptions by surgeons'



certificate of draughted men since the commencement of the draught in New England amount to the enormous proportion of seventy-three per cent! The amount of fee given for this service is variously estimated. If a man be very poor—and the surgeon also—a glass of whisky is sufficient *honorarium* to offer and accept. But, as a general rule, the price varies with the worldly circumstances of the person “who will not be a soldier,” and ranges from one to twenty dollars. The would-be exempt is stripped—and if the surgeon finds a greenback between the man's toes, under his armpit, behind his ear, between his teeth, or elsewhere, the matter becomes as clear to his capacity, as it previously was to that of him who does not wish to risk his life for his country, and the business is settled to the mutual satisfaction of doctor and patient. But the dishonesty does not answer its purpose, the Government having resolved to treat all such certificates as of no avail, and to admit of no exemptions but such as are signed by its own appointed army surgeons. In one of the municipal districts of the city of Boston, out of 1135 conscripts submitted to examination, 937 were exempted, either on the ground of foreign citizenship, physical incapacity, or error in the enrolling lists, which included boys under eighteen and men over forty-five years of age. Another batch of 70 paid 300 dols. each as the exemption fine; 108 provided substitutes; and *ten*, being too strong for exemption and too poor to pay for substitutes, were compelled to do duty or suffer the penalty decreed against desertion. Nor do these numbers, unfavourable as they appear to the Government in its hour of need, convey the whole extent of the evil. A regular business of “substitution” has been organised throughout New England, the substitutes provided being for the most part “rowdies” and ruffians of the great cities, who have all the physical and none of the moral attributes of the good soldier, and who make it their business to desert as soon as possible after receipt of their money, to carry on the same trade in a new locality. The name of “bounty jumpers” has recently been applied to them. On the 31st ult. a steamer with 117 conscripts and substitutes arrived in the East River, New York, from Newhaven, in Connecticut. The vessel no sooner touched the pier than the men endeavoured to escape. Some jumped overboard, and a scene of the greatest confusion ensued, the bystanders generally doing all in their power to assist the runaways. The result was that forty-seven got clear off, and defied pursuit. The remaining seventy were marched to the Park Barracks under an escort to be removed forthwith to Washington.—*Times Correspondent.*

#### GERMAN FEDERAL REFORM.

THE Emperor of Austria has addressed autographic letters, dated July 31, to all the Sovereigns of Germany and to the four free towns of Hamburg, Lubeck, Bremen, and Frankfort, inviting them to send representatives to a conference to be held at Frankfort on the 16th inst., at which his Imperial Majesty will personally submit a scheme for the reorganisation of the German Bund. The following are said to be the heads of the project to be submitted by the Austrian Emperor, who by this step again re-asserts his claim to be the head of the German Confederation:—

1. Germany to have representative institutions like those possessed by Austria. 2. The German Parliament to consist of two Chambers, the upper one to be a House of Peers, the lower one a Chamber of Deputies. The Upper House to be “parity” composed of persons nominated by the different German Potentates, the Lower House to be formed of deputies elected by the representatives of the people in the various German States. 3. Only those Austrian and Prussian provinces which are part and parcel of the Federal territory to have a right to send representatives to the German Parliament. 4. The method of proceeding in Federal matters to be simplified. 5. An efficient executive power to be established. Such power either to consist of the representatives of Austria, Prussia, and Bavaria, or of the representatives of Austria, Prussia, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Saxony, and Hanover. As the ex-Minister Count Bernstorff declared that Prussia wished to exclude Austria from the German Confederation, it is not likely that the Austrian propositions will find favour at Berlin; but the German nation so ardently desires a reform of the Bund, that it will hardly be inclined to attend to the special interests and by-ends of the Prussians. In my opinion, a well-organised, powerful, and independent German Confederation would be a great boon to the world at large, as it would be a guarantee for the maintenance of the representative system in the Federal States, and a safeguard against the encroachments of France on the one side and of Russia on the other.

The German journal called the *Botschafter* has a leading article on the approaching German Congress, in which it is said that the proposed reform of the Bund “cannot give umbrage to any one of the European Powers.” A united Germany cannot be agreeable to France; but England will hardly object to the establishment of a non-aggressive Continental Power which, in case of need, can bring 1,000,000 well-trained soldiers into the field. Count Rechberg considers the projected reform of the German Bund a matter of inferior moment; but M. von Schmerlin is not of the same opinion. In an article in one of the local papers, which must have been written at the instigation of the Minister of State, it is said that a firmly-united Germany would be an umpire “to whose decisions even Russia would be obliged to bow.”

That the King of Prussia had declined to take any part in the proposed Conference at Frankfort appears to be confirmed. The other Kings of Germany—Hanover, Bavaria, Saxony, and Wurtemberg—have accepted the invitation of Austria. Several of the minor Powers have likewise accepted it. But the refusal of Prussia, should it be persisted in, will no doubt seriously interfere with the project.

The Emperor of Austria has decided that newspaper reporters shall be admitted at the proposed Conference.

#### THE POLISH QUESTION.

A DESPATCH in reply to the views expressed by M. Drouyn de Lhuys in reference to the Russian answer to the note lately addressed to Russia by France, in conjunction with Austria and England, on the Polish question, has been published in the St. Petersburg journals. The following is the substance of this new diplomatic manifesto of Russia:—

1. M. Drouyn de Lhuys seems to conclude that the Russian reply implies a refusal of the six points under the appearance of adhesion.

The Russian reply explained that the greater part of the measures indicated in the six points had been granted, but that, far from pacifying the Kingdom of Poland, they were the starting-point of the insurrection.

The agitators have made reforms a pretext for raising the country. Having conceived the hope of complete independence by the aid of foreign intervention, they could not appear satisfied with the liberal institutions, the bases of which were being carried out by the Government.

If the Government did not repudiate bad faith and tortuous paths, it would perhaps have displayed some ability in categorically accepting the six points; but we wish to express our ideas loyally. The six points could not receive a practical solution until after order had been re-established.

2. M. Drouyn de Lhuys sees an accusation against the French Government in the assertion of the existence of a permanent conspiracy in a foreign territory. Such an intention could not enter our mind. We are persuaded that the French Government regrets these intrigues; but it remains a fact that they exist in its despite, and from Paris, one of their principal foci, they feed the moral agitation in the Kingdom of Poland, and furnish it with material resources.

Prince Gortschakoff then proceeds to prove, at length, that the movement in Poland proceeds from a turbulent minority, and points out that Russia has possessed Poland for half a century. The Prince also recapitulates the measures adopted, which departed but slightly from the bases recommended by the three Powers, and mentions the existence of exterior influence:—

The insurgents did not take up arms for liberal institutions, and have loudly declared that their exclusive object was the reconstitution of the limits of Poland in 1772. They have also put forth foreign intervention as the certain crowning of the enterprise.

The language of the French and English press (continues Prince Gortschakoff) has not diminished these encouragements, and it is on this account that we stated our conviction that foreign assistance was the principal cause of the persistence of the insurrection.

3. We adhere to our observations concerning the suspension of hostilities. It is necessary that the rebels should lay down their arms or that the

Government should abdicate all authority. It is impossible otherwise to understand the question of dignity and public order.

4. The proposal of a preliminary conference of the three Courts was suggested to us by the principle of the treaties of 1815, which is stated as the base of the diplomatic action of the Powers.

The opinion expressed by M. Drouyn de Lhuys confirms our conviction that this question has led to difficulties because it has been ill-stated, and because the debates have made it a matter affecting the dignity of our Cabinet.

Our proposal was inspired by the desire of conciliation, and we regret the opinion entertained by M. Drouyn de Lhuys. We are also painfully surprised at his impression of the general sense of our reply. Our despatch contained neither irony nor provocation; but a feeling of wounded dignity might have manifested itself in the expression of our ideas.

In face of the insults lavished upon us, it was impossible for us to disregard the force of the energetic sentiment of our nation. The Government endeavours to calm and enlighten, and to repress the explosion of the public spirit, which had been deeply wounded. The duty of a Government and the task of diplomacy are to separate from the conduct of affairs those passionate impulses which complicate them, and may endanger peace. We are conscious of having neglected nothing in the work of conciliation; and, in endeavouring to arrive at an understanding in conformity with the relations which have long united us to the Government of the Emperor Napoleon, we take pleasure in counting on the same disposition on his part. Our task would be difficult if France misunderstood the necessities imposed upon us by the sentiments of our nation, which cling to the traditions and vital interests of the country.

The new notes of the three Powers have been dispatched to St. Petersburg. The Paris papers assert that the contents of the three notes are similar in substance, and sometimes even identical in language. The impression, however, grows stronger and stronger that there is no alliance for any but diplomatic purposes, and that there will consequently be no war.

#### AN EMPIRE IN MEXICO.

MEXICO has been proclaimed an empire. The Council of Notables, convened by Marshal Forey, declared that the nation chose the Imperial as its form of Government, and proclaimed the Archduke Maximilian of Austria Emperor. If, however, the Archduke should decline the proffered honour, then the Council request that the Emperor Napoleon will kindly send a fit and proper person of his own choosing. The Empire was solemnly proclaimed on the 10th of July. A deputation of five persons immediately left for Europe charged to offer the new Imperial Crown to the Archduke Maximilian. It is stated that the Emperor and Empress of the French have sent their congratulations to the Archduke, and that the latter has returned a message acknowledging the good wishes of the French ruler. From this it is inferred that the Archduke has accepted the Crown offered to him. In the event, however, of his declining it, the names of M. Pattison Bonaparte and of Prince Napoleon have been mentioned as likely to be nominated by the Emperor Napoleon.

The proclamation of the new order of things in Mexico has caused a profound impression in America, and the Federal journals already talk of a war with France with the object of driving the latter Power and its nominees from the American continent, and so enforcing the favourite “Monroe doctrine” of the entire American continent for the people of the United States. The *New York World* thus discusses the subject:

How the establishment of the Mexican Empire will affect the future politics of this continent, and especially what will be its immediate bearing on our national struggle, are topics of speculation which have a far deeper than speculative interest. Like all great and pregnant events, it needs to be surveyed on several sides to take in its full importance; but just now its relation to the Southern rebellion in the aspect which most nearly concerns us. Our complete recovery of the Mississippi River by the capture of Vicksburg, which is the most important step thus far made in the war, seemed, for the moment, to clip the wings of Southern ambition, and to render it certain that, even though the South should ultimately gain its independence, it would be a small Power, with a great, growing, and overshadowing Power for its neighbour and natural antagonist, and without any materials on this continent for constructing a balance like that which gives security to the weaker Powers of Europe. Had the South been able to hold the Mississippi, she would, in the event of her independence, control the best routes for the Pacific Railroad, and might aspire to dominion over all our possessions on the Pacific coast. In that case the South would become a great, haughty, arrogant power, with whom we should probably never have ten years of consecutive peace. But when we had wrested the Mississippi from her grasp, we apparently took a guarantee that, even if we failed to restore the Union, our preponderance on this continent would continue so great that the South would have every interest to cultivate with us pacific relations.

This satisfactory view is very essentially modified by the proceeding which has made Mexico an appanage of the French Empire. Nominally, France will merely exercise a protectorate, and Mexico will govern itself; but nobody will be deceived by so transparent a mask. The Mexican Empire is set up by a French army; French bayonets alone can give it stability; whoever may be the monarch, he will be the creature of Louis Napoleon. The crafty French Potentate will, of course, give the new Government a drapery of Mexican nationality, just as, ten years ago, he attempted to reconcile Republican France to despotism by the sham of universal suffrage. But he will be as absolutely the ruler of Mexico as he is of France itself. Mexico, under this régime, instead of being, as heretofore, a weak Power, formidable to no other, will be one of the strongest on this continent. French enterprise and a steady Government will develop her magnificent natural resources; while, politically, Mexico will be France. French diplomacy will control her external relations; French arms will back up all her national quarrels. This French-Mexican Empire will be the natural ally of the Southern Confederacy for various reasons. In the first place, France assumes an attitude of contempt and hostility toward the United States in the very act of planting a monarchy on this continent. It is the very case originally in the contemplation of the Monroe declaration, which grew out of apprehensions that the so-called Holy Alliance intended to subvert the recently-formed Spanish-American Republics and force the monarchical system on this continent. This declaration has been once and again repeated in presidential messages since Mr. Monroe's time, and the prominence which has been accorded to it in political discussions makes it as well known as a part of the policy of the United States as anything connected with our history. Napoleon is not ignorant of a matter of such notoriety; he understands perfectly well that if the United States were the nation they were three years ago they would compel him to undo his recent work. Another circumstance which will make him the natural ally of the South is that the contraction of the Confederate boundaries, made necessary by the fall of Vicksburg, must relieve him from any apprehensions of Southern interference, and make it his policy to erect, on this continent, a strong counterpoise to the United States. If the North and the South seemed to him likely to become two equally great nations it would be his policy to play them off against each other and be a make-weight between them; but, with nothing to apprehend from one, and much to apprehend from the other, he will not hesitate to determine in favour of an alliance with the weaker.

Such an alliance, probably, does not yet exist in form; but that it already exists in substance, or that there is an understanding between the Emperor and the rebel envoy, Silldell, there is good reason to believe. An understanding of this sort, whether in fact or in prospect, bodes no good to us. The danger was never so great as now that we must encounter other arms than those of the South before this contest is closed. If France were the only nation of Europe, or if the objects pursued by Napoleon on this continent did not conflict with the interests or stir the envy of other European States, the prospect might be more appalling than we can now regard it. This new development of French ambition is calculated to alarm all Europe. It is a symptom that France is aiming to rival England in the prestige and influence of foreign dependencies. France cannot hope to recover her old colonial possessions in North America, which extended in a continuous belt from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to the mouth of the Mississippi; but she may attempt what, if successful, would add nearly as much to her weight and consideration. She will naturally aim to extend her dominion in Mexico southward, until it covers Central America and the isthmus, one of the fairest regions of the globe, and embracing one of the finest natural seats of commerce. A canal across the isthmus is not too difficult for the resources of modern engineering; and if France held such a gateway she could lay under tribute the commerce of Asia and Europe, as well as that of the American States on the North and South Pacific. Russia would not gain so much by the possession of the Bosphorus as would France by acquiring the isthmus. There is no State in Europe whose independence might not be endangered by so great an accession to the power of a monarchy which, without the vast territorial expansion of Russia or Britain, already overtops either of them in influence. If Louis Napoleon proceeds in the career of territorial ambition on which he has now entered, the jealousies of other European States ought to give us allies in the war with him which now seems all but inevitable.

MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.—For some years a Masonic Institution for boys has been established at Wood-green, near Hornsey, with accommodation for sixty or seventy inmates. The masons, it would seem, however, are a growing body, and the building in question so far falls short of their requirements that it has become necessary to enlarge it. The foundation-stone of a new edifice in connection with that already existing was accordingly laid on Saturday. When completed the enlarged institution will have room for one hundred and twenty boys, all of whom will be boarded and educated at the expense of the craft.

#### SCOTLAND.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.—Their Royal Highnesses, after passing a night in Edinburgh and visiting several of the most interesting places in the city, arrived at Perth on Friday, the 7th inst., where they were loudly cheered by the people, to whom they showed themselves, not only in the streets, but also by coming to the windows of the hotel. In the evening they drove to Scone, the old Royal Palace and crowning place of the Scottish kings; but now under the hereditary keeping of the Earl of Mansfield. On Saturday last they set off for the Highlands, and arrived at Abergeldie in the course of the day.

INTERESTING DISCOVERY IN ARGYLSHIRE.—A cavern similar to those found in England and on the Continent, containing osseous remains of men and of lower animals, has lately been discovered on the property of Mr. John Malcolm, of Poltalloch. The cavern has been fully explored, and its contents carefully collected by the Rev. Messrs. Macpherson and Macbride. These contents consist of the remains of men, of animals, and shells of edible shellfish. The only article of manufacture found in it was a small celt, a flint flake; and the only domestic utensil was a scallop shell, or *pecten maximus*, the shell used by the ancient Celts as a drinking-vessel. The cavern was evidently used as a place of residence, for beneath the debris were found ashes, charred wood, and bones, a flint pebble for striking fire, and stones, which, from their form and position, seemed to have served for seats. When first discovered, the human remains were supposed to have been those of persons who had fled there for shelter when the adjacent country was laid waste by fire and sword during a ruthless raid of a certain Alister McColl Clitto. The absence, however, of metal weapons and culinary vessels—both which were of universal use in the days of that scourge of Argyshire, and which undoubtedly would have been conveyed by the refugees to their place of concealment—and the presence of celts and scallop shells, seem to disprove this opinion, and to point to a much higher antiquity for its inhabitants. What seems to confirm this opinion is the fact that many of the bones, teeth, and shells are as firmly embedded in a calcareous matrix as are the fossil remains in the lias and carboniferous limestone.

#### THE PROVINCES.

NORWICH MUSICAL FESTIVAL.—This festival commences on the 14th of next month, and the arrangements have now been nearly completed. The vocalists engaged comprise Mdlle. Titiens, Mdlle. Lemmens-Sherrington, Mdlle. Weiss, Miss Wilkinson, Miss Palmer, Mdlle. Trebelli, Mr. Sims Reeves, Signor Bettini, Mr. Montem Smith, Mr. Santley, Signor Bossi, and Mr. Weiss. On the first evening “Judas Maccabaeus” will be performed; on the Wednesday morning a new oratorio, “Jonah,” by Mr. Silas; on the Thursday morning, “Elijah;” and on Friday morning, the “Messiah.” The miscellaneous concerts in the evenings will comprise Mr. Benedict's cantata, “Richard Coeur de Lion;” Mr. Cusins's serenata, &c. St. Andrew's Hall has been undergoing a thorough renovation, and the Mayor of Norwich (Mr. H. S. Patteson) gives a déjeuner on Wednesday to celebrate the completion of the work. Mr. Benedict, who will act as general conductor, has already held a rehearsal in the hall, and will go down in a few days.

THE COWES REGATTA.—At the Cowes Regatta, last week, the £100 prize, given by the Royal Yacht Squadron, was won by the Arrow, beating the Phryne, Audax, Christabel, Crusader, and Adram Marina. Her Majesty's cup was won by the Albertine, beating the Petrol, Sultana, Flying Cloud, Aline, and Volage. For the Prince of Wales's cup, there was no race, the other yachts declining to contest with the Arrow. At anchor in Cowes roads is the American schooner-yacht Gipsy, belonging to the New York Yacht Club, and which vessel some of the New York papers lately announced had left New York for the Solent expressly to “whip” the Britishers. Her owner disclaimed any racing intentions, and states that, having crossed the Atlantic in his yacht with his family, she is not fitted for racing. Her bulwarks have been raised for the voyage, and she is under-sparred twenty-five per cent to what she would be if he intended trying to “whip” any one publicly. She is a remarkably bold-looking vessel, with very lofty masts. She is 152 tons, New York measurement, spreads 1989 square feet of canvas, and carries thirty-seven hands. Whatever may be her power of sailing, she is decidedly the most startling-looking craft at present in the Solent.

THE SALMON FISHERIES.—The salmon season is now drawing to a close, and, altogether, has been the most successful that has been experienced in the Severn and Wye—two of the most important salmon streams of England—for a great many years. Not only has the take of fish been greater, but the fish have been unusually fine. Fish from 20lb. to 30lb. in weight have been quite common, while several have been taken in the Severn 40lb. in weight, and one recently 52lb. The taking of such large fish is one of the most significant signs of improvement in the management of the fisheries. The Act of 1861, for the improvement of salmon fisheries and protection of the fish when in a breeding condition, has no doubt had a salutary effect. The putt and putcher fisheries in the lower part of the Severn and Wye, and in the estuary between the mouths of the Wye and Avon and Newport, are found so difficult of management, in consequence of the necessity of closing them from Saturday at noon to Monday morning, that it is likely they will be abandoned for net fishing. This will be a great boon to the fishermen in the upper portions of the rivers, who complain that the putts and putchers take more than a fair toll of the fish. The executive of the local protection associations have strictly watched these fisheries, and in all cases where the weekly fence time has been disregarded have prosecuted the offenders. It must be taken as a proof of the increase of the fish that a shoal of grampuses have lately appeared in the Bristol Channel in pursuit of the salmon. One of these has been captured as high as within three miles of Gloucester, and he had no doubt pursued the salmon up the river so far, no less than 45 salmon having been taken in one draught near the spot where the grampus was captured. This fish was 16 ft. long and about 12 ft. round the thickest part.

THE DISTRESS IN THE NORTH.—The reports from Lancashire are again of a discouraging character. In the very height of summer, and while a bountiful harvest is making large demands upon the labour market, the tide of improvement has suddenly turned, and the distress in the manufacturing districts is once more increasing. For nearly eight months it had been uninterrupted on the decline. Upon an average, 4000 hands were struck off the relief-lists every week, and the actual mass of distress with which the authorities were dealing had been reduced, in the end, by nearly one half. At Christmas last upwards of 500,000 persons were relieved. At Midsummer the recipients of charity were but 256,000, and the expenditure had been diminished in a still greater ratio. The progress continued till the 18th of July, but then it ceased. The next report showed a transfer of the balance from one side of the sheet to the other. On the 25th of July there appeared, not a decrease, but an increase in the number of paupers; and on the 1st of August the addition was not only continued, but very seriously extended. The increase was but 280 in the first week of the change; in the second it was 1290. If that is to be the rate of retrogression we shall soon get back to the statistics of the winter.

#### THE HARVEST.

ENGLAND.—Harvest work has been going on rapidly in every quarter, and not only has a very large breadth of corn been cut, but no little has also, within the last few days, been housed in splendid condition. Not an hour has been lost; in fact, shortness of hands has been the only thing that has prevented even more progress being made. If the present weather continue but one week longer a very large portion of the grain crops will have been garnered, under the most favourable circumstances possible to conceive or desire. Reports speak well of the probable yield, as well as of the quality, of wheat, oats, and barley. Of beans and peas the accounts are somewhat varied, though, on the whole, very satisfactory. Potatoes are almost everywhere turning out well, and strong hopes are entertained that the disease will this year prove to be extremely circumscribed in its effects. As yet it is scarcely heard of, and we are already past the period at which it has exhibited itself in late years.

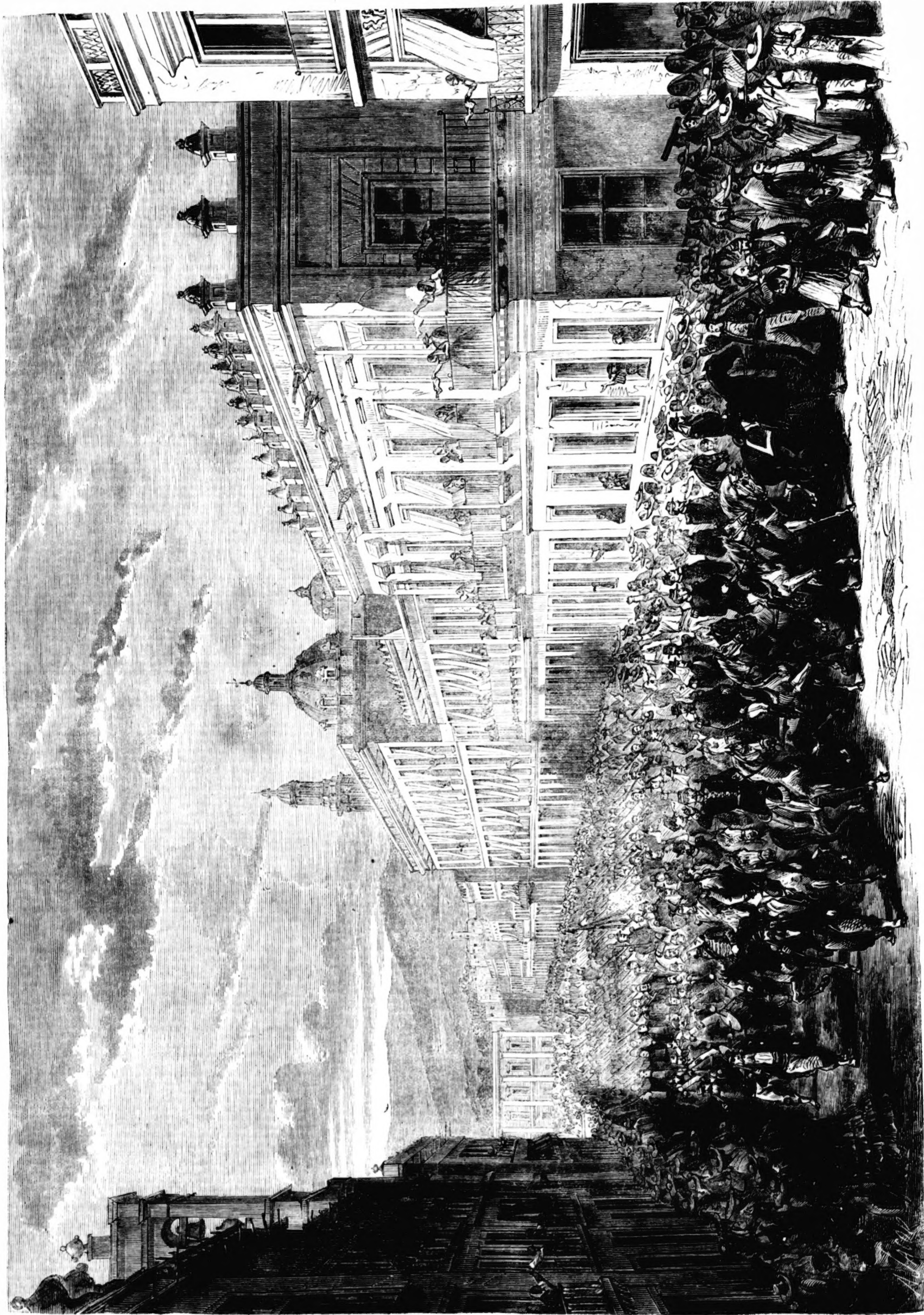
IRELAND.—The most favourable accounts of the crops come from all parts of the country. The heavy falls of rain we have had lately, followed by intense heat, are said to have improved the crops, which were hastening too fast to maturity. All kinds of grain crops are in excellent condition, and as yet there are no complaints of the appearance of the blight on the potatoes, which are remarkably good this year. The prospects of the farmers are most satisfactory, and the general improvement of the country is indicated by an increase of traffic on all the railway lines.

SCOTLAND.—Scanty though the showers have been of late, they have had a marked effect upon pastures, which are now looking much fresher. Turnips have also improved, and the filling of the cereal crops has been assisted considerably. Potatoes continue to look, in general, remarkably well, and are as yet quite free from disease. A commencement of harvest will probably be made towards the end of this week. The cereal crops generally look well, though here and there is to be seen a field of oats thin on the ground and short in the straw. On elevated districts the crops are late and generally light; but the grass is looking fresh and good.

THE HOP PLANTATIONS.—The weather during the past fortnight has proved exceedingly favourable for the hop plants, which have made considerable progress. In all the best grounds hopes are entertained that there will be a full average crop; while on the poor lands the yield is expected to be indifferent, especially in those gardens where there have been attacks of vermin. There are still numerous complaints from several of the large hop-growing districts that the blight has had an injurious effect upon the plants. In many parts the ravages of blight and insect have proved so disastrous that the few hops now to be seen will not pay for the gathering, while in other districts the yield is confidently expected to come up to from 10 cwt. to 15 cwt. per acre.

THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS has assented to an application from Mr. J. A. Mays, the secretary to the Improved Industrial Dwellings Company (Limited), asking for leave to erect on a piece of land close to the Great Northern Railway Station, King's-cross, several large blocks of dwellings, after the model of those recently built for Mr. Alderman Waterlow, in Finsbury. The dwellings will comprise separate and distinct houses for about one hundred families.





GENERAL BAZAINE'S DIVISION OCCUPYING THE CITY OF MEXICO.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. BERTIN.)



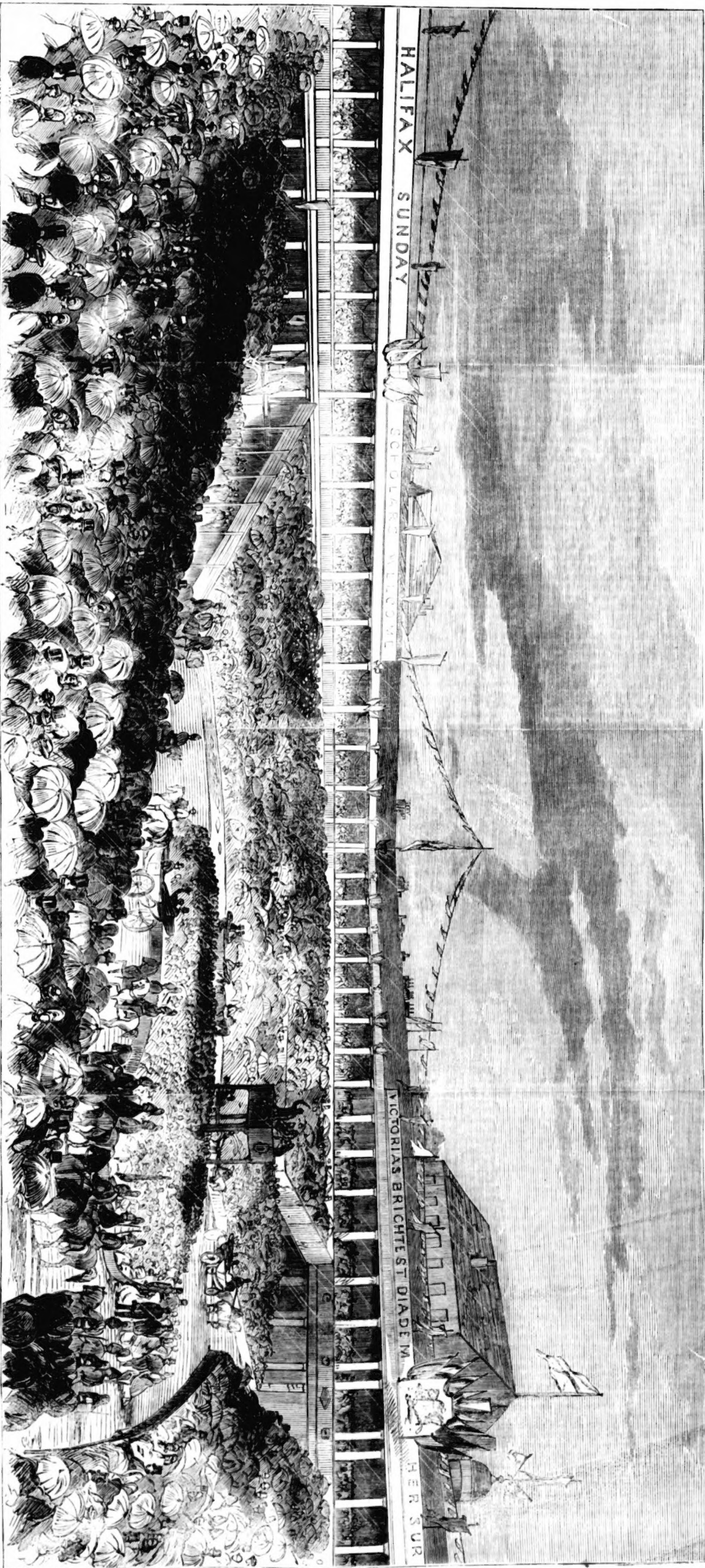
THE FRENCH IN MEXICO.

The particulars of the surrender of Mexico have now been made known, and the results of the success of the French arms have been more and more apparent every day since this event, until there seems some probability of the people agreeing to receive a new ruler under the auspices of the Emperor Napoleon, and consenting to receive the French there on a permanent footing, not so much as their conquerors as their deliverers. It will be remembered that immediately after the taking of Puebla General Forey detached a portion of his army and placed it under the command of General Bazaine, to take possession of the approaches to Mexico, and prepare the means of an attack if it became necessary. The

General, however, was not compelled to resort to the last extremity, since Juárez, knowing that it would be useless to prolong the siege after the defeat of Comontfort and in presence of a victorious army, deemed it prudent to retire to a smaller town in the interior with the 6000 men that remained, and leave the inhabitants of the capital to do their best under the circumstances. There can now be very little doubt that the people of Mexico were considerably relieved by the entry of the French troops, since they had for some time been heartily sick of their situation; and the procession of the regiments through the streets was more in the nature of a welcome to the victors than of the grudging reception of a successful enemy. A crowd of the inhabitants appeared before General Bazaine, inviting him to take

possession at once, and it was pretty evident that they had dreaded nothing so much as a siege, for which they were totally unprepared. The artist from whose sketch our Engraving is taken has chosen the moment at which the General, followed by his troops, entered the great street of Mexico, amidst a crowd composed of Indians, half-breeds, Spanish Mexicans, and the inhabitants of all quarters of the city. Meanwhile, from the balconies of the tall houses flags and handkerchiefs waved as for a great festival, and wreaths and bouquets were showered upon the troops as they passed. General Bazaine, who succeeds Marshal Forey as commander of the corps d'armée of 15,000 men which is to remain for the present in Mexico, is one of those successful soldiers of fortune not unfrequently met with in the

French service. In 1831, at the age of twenty, he enlisted as a volunteer, and obtained his first commission two years later in that Foreign Legion, composed of men of all countries, in the ranks of which many distinguished French officers have won their spurs. Until 1835 he served in Africa, and then proceeded to Spain, on the Staff of the legion, which the Government of Louis Philippe had lent to that of Queen Christina for service against the Carlists. Made Captain in 1839, he again landed in Africa in 1840, and there for thirteen years his name was frequently to be found honourably mentioned in the despatches reciting the many combats between French and Arabs. Combining the most daring courage with natural military talent, he was looked upon as an officer who was sure to rise high in his profession. In 1854 he was transferred to the Crimea, and in two years



THE PRINCE OF WALES AT HALIFAX.—THE MEETING OF THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL CHILDREN.

TELEGRAPH TO INDIA.

The cable for the Persian Gulf line, now being prepared at Mr. Henley's telegraph works, North Woolwich, is nearly complete, and the vessels of the expedition which is to have charge of submerging it will leave this country before the end of next month. They are expected to arrive on the scene of their operations in January or February, and the process of submerging is not likely to continue more than a month or so, so that by March next London will be placed within a few hours of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay.

The whole length of the cable is 1250 nautical miles, of which 900 have been manufactured, and the experience of the failures in laying the Atlantic and Red Sea telegraph lines has been turned to profit.

There are, in the first place, to be three breaks in the line, avoiding the dangers of a long deep-sea route. The first length will be from the head of the Persian Gulf, at Shat-el-Arab, to Bushire, a distance of 170 miles, along

service there he won the rank of Brigadier-General, and then that of General of Division. His name was cited among those who rendered the best services in the Kimbura expedition. In Italy, at the head of a division of the 1st Corps, he maintained his reputation, distinguishing himself at Melegnano and Solferino. His conduct in the Mexican expedition was favourably reported of by General Forey, and he received the cross of Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour by the same despatch which conveyed to his chief the baton of a Marshal.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AT HALIFAX.

We this week publish several Engravings illustrative of the Prince of Wales's visit to Halifax on the occasion of opening the new Townhall in that town. The incidents depicted in these Engravings were fully described in our last week's Number (see page 82), and to the article then published we beg to refer our readers.

which the cable will be submerged in from 20 to 25 fathoms of water. The next length will be from Bushire to Mussondom, a bold, desolate, stony headland on the coast of Arabia. This section will be 440 miles long, and submerged in from 30 to 35 fathoms of water. The third length will be from Mussondom to Guaddel, a small city on the Mekran coast, on the frontier of the Kalat territory. This portion will be 40 miles long, and laid in from 40 to 50 fathoms of water. From Guaddel a short length of land line is now almost complete, giving direct communication with Karachi, and thence all over India, to the very frontier of Burmah.

The Persian Gulf line is cased in twelve No. 7 gauge hard-drawn iron wires, thickly galvanised, so as effectually to prevent their corrosion. But, in order to secure more effectually the permanent stability of the line, the whole finished cable is thickly coated with two servings of tarred hemp-yarn, overlaid with two coatings of a patent composition invented by Sir Charles Bright and Mr. Latimer Clark. The composition consists of mineral pitch, or asphalt, Stockholm tar, and powdered silica, mixed in certain proportions, and laid on in a melted state. With the final protection both from rust and atmospheric which Bright and Clark's compound affords, there appears to be no reason why this cable, when once laid in shallow or deep waters, should not remain good for a hundred years. The copper conducting-wire is composed of four segments, drawn into a hollow tube in such a manner as to appear like a solid wire. By this means all the advantages of a strand wire are combined with the condensed bulk and small surface of a solid one. The copper from which the wire is drawn is especially selected by the engineers for its high capacity for conducting electricity. This wire, which is nearly one eighth of an inch in diameter, is then covered with four distinct coats of gutta-percha and four coats of Chatterton's compound laid on alternately. This "core," as it is termed, is then tested in cold water, at a temperature of 90 deg., and then under a pressure of 600 lb. to the square inch. After passing through all these ordeals, the loss by leakage through the gutta-percha covering does not exceed one hundred-millionth part of the current of electricity in every nautical mile.



### THE DUKE OF ARGYLL ON AGRICULTURE.

A BANQUET took place last week at Kelso in connection with the meeting in that town of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. The Duke of Argyll presided, and, in proposing the toast of "Prosperity to the Society," said:—

The value which they placed upon the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland much depended on the estimate they had formed of that noble industry to which they devoted their years. He had called it an industry, for so it was; he might have called it an art, for so it was. But it was not only an industry and an art, it was, in the highest sense of the word, a science. By "science" he meant not simply knowledge acquired, so to speak, by rule of thumb; he meant systematic knowledge, knowledge reduced to a system, and endeavouring, as its highest object, to rise to the highest attainment of great natural laws. Now, the power which had been given to man of modifying to his own use the animal and vegetable worlds was one of the greatest wonders, he might say one of the greatest mysteries, of the world. To himself, who was not, he confessed, a practical agriculturist, and was not acquainted with the details of agriculture, the interest which he took in these shows was always the interest that arose from the extent to which the power of man was exhibited over the animal and vegetable worlds in creating almost, as it were, a new species for his own benefit and his own use. He would not tell them, because that he would tell them it was a power of which they did not know the limits, because they had never arrived at the end, and perhaps never would. It was not, probably, a creative power, and yet it produced results which were very closely allied to creation, and perhaps were difficult to be separated from it. He did not think that there would be many in that room—though there might be some—who had not read one of the most remarkable works of the present day—he meant Mr. Darwin's on the origin of species. If they had, he must say that, although it was a book written by a purely scientific naturalist, with a purely scientific object, there was no book which he had ever read which contained more fertile principles for the progress of agriculture than this book of Mr. Darwin. If they had read the book they would find that the man of pure science, pure speculative science, gave in it as his opinion that all the animals which had been created in the world had been in the course of innumerable ages introduced upon this scene by means of those principles of natural selection and intercrossing and breeding by which farmers had succeeded in establishing those peculiar breeds of cattle of which specimens had been seen that day. And certainly when they went into any one of those shows it did seem like a new creation. When they compared, for instance, the West Highlanders with the shorthorn, or with the polled cattle, or with some of those stranger varieties which had sometimes appeared in shows like the present from the Continent, it was almost impossible to believe that they were the same animals which had been altered by the power of man in selecting particular qualities, in imparting those qualities to certain breeds, and in adapting them for use in particular districts and under certain climates. Yet every one of those varieties of cattle they had seen that day, and the many more which they would see at future shows, and the many others which they had seen at the great exhibition in London last year—every one of those varieties had been derived, there was reason to believe, from one or two wild varieties of cattle. Not many years ago, in the country with which he was more particularly connected there was turned up in a peat moss the head of a magnificent bull, which Professor Owen told him was one of the finest specimens he had ever seen of its kind. That was the head of the original cattle of this country, which there was reason to believe might have existed contemporaneously with the first man. It certainly was a very large animal, but he doubted whether it would have had any other fine qualities. He certainly would have liked to have seen the countenances of some of the judges if they had been put into a pen with that same animal. He did not think that they would have felt what there the fruits of intercrossing and breeding by which they had now established such varieties of animals that both for food of man and for dairy produce they had obtained virtually a new species. So much was this the case that he confessed he was very much struck in the course of that morning on reading another and a very different book, but a book with which he confessed he had been almost equally struck, written, he believed, by a tenant farmer of that country, who was now in that room—he meant Mr. Wilson, of Edginton Mains—a book which, for clearness of arrangement, of expression, and for close adherence to its great leading principles, was a perfect model of a truly scientific treatise. So closely did the language of this tract of the agriculturist agree with Mr. Darwin's, that, in speaking of one of the breeds of sheep which had been introduced into this country, and which was now one of our most valuable breeds, he actually spoke of it as if it had been the creation of a single individual. He said, "It is not above a century since this breed was produced by the genius and perseverance of Mr. Bakewell." That was the exact language of the scientific naturalist, Mr. Darwin. This breed, the Leicester, had been produced by the genius and perseverance of one enterprising farmer. They did not know to what extent these improvements might go, nor what other qualities of food for man might be developed by the genius and perseverance of future Bakewells—perhaps he might say of present Messrs. Bakewell, for he hoped there might be men in that room who would inaugurate great changes for the better to the agriculture of Scotland. And as it is with regard to the animal kingdom, so it is with the vegetable. I will pass over all the varieties of grain grown by the farmer, as many of them are of extreme antiquity in their origin. I believe it is very difficult to observe much difference between the wheat grown by the Pharaohs and that now grown with so much success in the immediate neighbourhood of Kelso. But going to the lowest orders of the vegetable kingdom—I mean the cultivation of grasses—I may say with perfect truth that that is a point of agriculture which remains to be developed, and in which the greatest improvements may take place. Here, also, we find the language of the practical farmer affords a close analogy to the language of the scientific naturalist. It is a favourite theory of Mr. Darwin's, which I believe he has satisfactorily established, that the distribution of plants depends upon what he calls the battle of life—that every plant is endeavouring, so to speak, to smother its neighbour plant, and that the slightest advantage which is given to any one plant in this struggle enables it to overcome its neighbours, and, so to speak, to overspread the country. Now, while this is true, it is the object of the scientific farmer first of all to ascertain what are the plants which are most valuable to himself and to the animals which he wishes to feed; and, secondly, to find out what are the circumstances which enable him to give that individual plant the advantage in the struggle for life, so that it may smother the inferior grasses and produce a better pasturage over the country. That is the theory of Mr. Darwin. And here I was struck with the close analogy of the language used by Mr. Wilson in speaking of the cultivation of pasture land. Speaking of rank places, which are apt to arise under certain circumstances, he says:—"If these rank places are neglected until the herbage gets dry and withered, the finer plants die out, the coarser-growing grasses usurp the ground, and the pasturage is injured for all future years." That is exactly the language of the scientific naturalist. The practical farmer thus finds it perfectly true that in the struggle for life it is the great object to give the advantage to those kinds of grasses which have been found to be of the finest and most nutritious quality, and that the slightest ignorance or the slightest carelessness on the part of the husbandman may for years destroy a valuable pasturage. Now, if agriculture is, as I have ventured to maintain it is, not merely an industry and an art, but, in the highest sense of the word, a science, then it is to be promoted and cultivated as other sciences have been promoted and cultivated. We all know that in respect to other sciences there are societies similar to the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. There are chemical societies, mechanical societies, and astronomical societies; and these societies are all connected in one great association, called the British Association for the Advancement of Science; and it is precisely on the same principle that this Highland Society has been organised, affiliating with itself local societies having the same object in view over the whole kingdom, and having annual shows, and giving prizes for treatises upon agriculture, by which the experience of the whole country may be made common to the country, and the actual results may be exhibited at the shows. You cannot make experiments in agriculture in so short a time as experiments can be made in other sciences or with so absolutely definite a result. The very shortest time any important experiment in agriculture can be tried is at least one revolution of the seasons, and there are innumerable complications arising from varieties of soil and climate which tend to confuse experiments in agriculture; so that, generally, one experiment cannot be successfully tested except in a long course of years. It is, therefore, of some importance that the experience of farmers in different parts of the country should be brought together, that facts may be assimilated and compared, and that farmers should be encouraged in that literature of their science and art of which we have had such an eminent example in the work of Mr. Wilson, to which I have referred. Some years ago it was thought by many absolutely impossible that the farmers of this country could compete with foreigners, especially for the produce of wheat—nay, some years ago it was considered that 60s. a quarter was the lowest price at which wheat could be produced and sold at a profit in this country. I recollect Sir Robert Peel saying that if wheat was to sell at an average price of 56s. it could not be grown in this country. Now, the average price of wheat at present is from 42s. to 45s., and yet I do not believe there is a smaller acreage of this country sown in wheat than there was at the time of the repeal of the corn laws. And here I cannot help expressing very great regret—a regret in which I am sure that the scientific and intelligent tenant farmers of Scotland will share—that it has been found necessary to give up the system of agricultural statistics in this country. I do not mean to express a decided opinion whether the Highland Society was or was not the fitting organisation for gathering that information; but this I do say, that the years during which that statistical information was collected by your secretary, and freely given by the tenant farmers, were years of great interest in their result, and that the exertions then made reflected the highest credit upon him and upon the farmers of Scotland who supplied him with the information.

Mrs. THORNTON has been appointed by the Queen instructress in the art of sculpture to the young Princesses.

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## ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1863.

### A RAID IN WESTMINSTER.

MANY years ago Mr. Henry Mayhew told eloquently the life of the street vender of necessities of popular consumption, and advocated the establishment of markets for the poor. He demonstrated that the street sale of perishable commodities was at once an institution and a necessity. His idea of the poor man's market was not acted upon, because such markets already existed in various parts of the metropolis. We had already the New Cut, Clare Market, the Broadway and Strutton-ground, Westminster, and many other well-known marts of a like character, where the poor man's wife might buy the means of subsistence without being compelled to pay a share of the high rents demanded of shopkeepers in frequented thoroughfares.

It seems that this state of things is to be ended—at least, if Boards are to be allowed to compel the police to drive the poor street-sellers into idleness and destitution. Their business is to be abolished under the powers of the Metropolitan Board of Works, and under the conveniently elastic denomination of "obstruction." At the instance of a majority in a conclave of the Westminster branch of this Board, a notice has been issued by the police, commanding the stall-keepers of Strutton-ground and the Broadway to abandon their honest means of obtaining a livelihood, in order that these so-called thoroughfares may henceforth be cleared for the more rapid passage of vehicles.

This business has been contrived under circumstances not altogether creditable to any of the parties concerned. The time selected—immediately upon the dismissal of Parliament—lays the promoters open to an obvious imputation. So far as we can gather upon diligent inquiry, it appears to have thus arisen: several tradesmen, carrying on business in outlying districts, were summoned for really causing obstructions by exposing their goods for sale upon the public footways about Chelsea and elsewhere. Mr. Selfe, the newly-appointed magistrate of the Westminster Police Court, refused to punish these people while the "nuisance" of Strutton-ground was yet allowed to continue. The board, who had instituted the prosecutions, applied to Sir Richard Mayne, who distinctly refused to take upon himself the odium of driving forth the long-established street-sellers. Thereupon the Board directed a committee of inquiry as to the "nuisance," and convened a meeting to receive a report. Without further notice, a motion was passed calling upon Sir Richard to put the law into force. A brief notice was issued from Scotland-yard, and all the stall-keepers were at once ejected.

Some of our contemporaries have published narratives of a consequent "riot," and have stated that the windows of tradesmen known to have supported the measure were demolished by the mob. This is simply fabulous. One window was broken by a drunken woman, who was at once arrested, and has been punished. We have traversed the entire area of what, ten days since, was a thriving market. There were no signs of disorder, and there were no broken windows, beyond about four, in as many temporarily uninhabited houses. The poor costermongers and fishwomen had resorted to the constitutional appeal of a public meeting, at which the principal tradesmen of repute in the locality had attended to advocate their cause, and pledge themselves to its legitimate support.

Such are the facts. The "street stall riots in Westminster" are the production of the fecund imagination of the "penny-aliner." But, taking the truth only, a grave social question remains for consideration. Had the police any right whatever to interfere with these poor stall-keepers? We are prepared to maintain not only that it was impolitic but actually illegal so to do.

The stalls removed by the police had been from time immemorial not only a means of living to the holders, but a direct advantage to the customers as well as to the tradesmen of the district. At these stalls were sold exclusively such perishable goods as fish, vegetables, fruit, and flowers. The shops opposite the stalls were benefited by the advent of marketing purchasers, entirely of the working and poorer classes. The thoroughfare might have been even blocked up, so far as regarded vehicles, without public inconvenience, since the new Victoria-street, with its branches, afforded convenient passage from any part or either end of it, with a circuit scarcely worth consideration. The places now interdicted to stall-keepers formed actually a market.

But, say the police, this market was an "obstruction." So is every lamp-post, every kerbstone, every house. St. Paul's Cathedral is the biggest obstruction in all London. Is the Board of Works prepared to render the metropolis a paved desert, in order to facilitate the carrying on of commerce, or the locomotion of unpunctual persons in cabs to railway stations? Is retail commerce to be annihilated that wholesale trade may have its swing uninterrupted? Why, after all, any one may see upon the most cursory of transits, that the real blockade of Strutton-ground is caused by the stoppage of wholesale dealers' vans to unload at the doors of the retail traders. As to the Broadway, it was evidently planned and built for a public market of the kind for which it has been used.

The district has been held as a market from time immemorial. "Long and immemorial usage," says Blackstone (in a book of which the Westminster Board appears to have been ignorant), in the case of "public marts, or places of buying and selling, such as markets, presupposes" a grant from the Sovereign. What right has a mere accidental majority, even if obtained at a duly convened meeting, which does not appear to have been incidental to this case, to interfere with a legal prescriptive right?

It is absurd to call a market, such as this has been for at least fifty years, a "nuisance." Firstly, it was no nuisance, but a great public advantage. It afforded a ready means of disposal, at cheap rates, of goods which otherwise might have rotted upon hand. Former parochial authorities had provided the means of enabling stall-keepers to wash their goods and maintain them fresh.

What is to come next? Are the parish authorities prepared to charge the rates with the inevitable burden of supporting scores of the former stall-keepers in unproductive labour or idleness at the union workhouse? Do they wish to behold the ruin of a tribe of shop-keepers deprived of the influx of ready-money customers, consequent upon the establishment of a popular market? Is the possibility of easy locomotion through a few yards of street, forming a short cut to nowhere in particular, to be taken as an equivalent for the condemnation of an entire district to destitution?

Viewing the matter coldly and drily as one of law and policy, there can be scarcely a doubt that the Westminster board has acted not only unadvisedly, but illegally. We question much whether any one of the dispossessed stall-keepers might not successfully maintain his action upon the easy proof of his prescriptive right; but meanwhile we can only rejoice that the good sense of what are called the "lower orders," even of Westminster, has kept them from seeking retribution in the "riot" which has been unjustly charged upon them, and that tradesmen, neighbours, and gentlemen of position and influence are already advocating their cause and preparing to demand, on their behalf, redress for injuries inflicted in ignorance or defiance of law and of the principles of social economy.

### SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, with a small suite, and accompanied by Earl Granville, embarked at Woolwich on Tuesday for Germany. The embarkation was devoid of all ceremonial, and was as private as unprecedentedly stringent orders to the Royal dock people could make it.

SIR HENRY MARSHAM HAVELOCK, BART., son of the illustrious Havelock, is engaged to be married to Lady Alice Morton, daughter of the late Earl of Ducie.

MR. W. H. WEBB, the present proprietor, contradicts the statement that Newstead Abbey had been purchased by the Prince of Wales.

THE DUKE OF BRABANT has left Brussels for Scotland, where he proposes to enjoy the sport of grouse-shooting.

SIR JAMES P. WILDE, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, will succeed Sir Cresswell Cresswell as Chief Judge in Ordinary of the Court of Probate and Divorce.

SIR JAMES HUDSON, who has represented England at the Court of Turin for many years, and through a most critical period for Italy, retires from that post. His successor is to be Mr. Elliot, formerly English Minister at Naples.

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD is suffering from indisposition, and has gone for a short time to Switzerland, to try the effects of change of climate and cessation from work.

LORD CLYDE'S STATE OF HEALTH is still of a most unfavourable character. Notwithstanding the resistance to disease which a vigorous constitution enables him to make, the condition of the gallant Field Marshal is precarious in the extreme.

DR. JOHN STRUTHERS, F.R.C.S., Lecturer on Anatomy at Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh, has been appointed Professor of Anatomy in the University of Aberdeen, vacant by the resignation of Dr. Lizars.

COLONEL THE HON. C. H. LINDSAY, of the St. George's Volunteers, was accidentally shot in the leg during a competition with revolver pistols at Wormwood Scrubs on Tuesday.

M. EUGENE DELACROIX, the celebrated French painter, is dangerously ill.

FIFTEEN BISHOPS, eight Deans, fifteen Archdeacons, a great number of beneficed clergy, peers, and members of Parliament, have presented a memorial to the Archbishop of Canterbury praying him to use his influence to shut the theatres of London during Passion Week.

COUNT EDWARD CZAPSKI, one of the principal landowners in Lithuania, has been condemned to death by Mouravieff. The Count has not taken an active part in the insurrection.

ON SATURDAY the nuptials of Viscount Dangan, eldest son of Earl and Countess Cowley, and Miss Gwendoline Williams, second daughter of Colonel Thomas Peers Williams, M.P. for Great Marlow, took place at St. George's Church, Hanover-square, in the presence of a very numerous and fashionable company.

THE HEAD MASTER OF HARROW SCHOOL has issued an order that the side trousers pockets of the scholars shall in future be dispensed with, his reason for the prohibition being that the boys continually had their hands in these pockets, and thereby contracted a lounging and stooping gait.

AFTER THE CAPTURE OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, the Federal troops broke loose from their camps and plundered the city. Their officers lost all control over them.

A NEW JEWISH SYNAGOGUE was on Monday consecrated at Dover with all the rites and ceremonies of the Hebrew faith. It is in the Greek style of architecture, and is calculated for the accommodation of 250 persons.

AT BURNLEY, the other day, a man sold his infant child for 2s. 6d., but afterwards changed his mind, and insisted on having it back.

SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF ACRES OF HEATH AND FURZE were lately burnt at Sandford, in Dorsetshire. Earthen embankments had to be suddenly thrown up to prevent the fire from reaching fields of corn and other valuable property.

THE EXTRAORDINARY NUMBER OF 123 POTATOES was last week dug from one stalk in land belonging to Mr. Baker, of Froome St. Quinton.

A MARRIAGE was about to be celebrated at Liege, a few days ago, when the bride's father suddenly dropped down in a fit of apoplexy. He recovered sufficiently to give his consent to the marriage, and then expired.

UP AMONG THE HARTFELL HILLS, near Moffatt, and about Dobbs's Linn and Meggart Water, Dumfriesshire, several small "finds" of gold have been made recently; one nugget, weighing about six grains, has been publicly exhibited.

WHILE A FEMALE LAFWING was watching her young brood beside a ditch which contained some water, in the parish of Tankerness, Orkney, a few days ago, the little "poewits" tumbled into the water and were drowned. The lapwing on the bank was so affected by this that she sat sadly down and soon died on the spot.

AS SOME COLLIERIES were employed in a pit of the Granby Colliery, near Ilkerton, Derbyshire, spontaneous combustion arose from an escape of foul air. The flames swept across the pit with great rapidity, reducing the body of one man to a cinder and severely burning six or seven others.

SOME WAGGONS, LADEN WITH GUNPOWDER, were passing through a village near Malaga, when an explosion occurred, which blew up the vehicle. Eleven persons—men, women, and children—and twenty-two horses were killed. A shepherd, who was keeping his flock at a short distance from the spot, was also killed, as were nearly the whole of his sheep.

AT HARTLEPOOL, on Monday, two men, named respectively Pearson and Mead, had gone out of the harbour on a fishing expedition, when, by a sudden gust of wind, the boat was upset and both the poor fellows were thrown into the water and drowned. The body of Pearson has been recovered, that of his companion being still missing.

MR. JOHN BOWRING has presented to the British Museum his very extensive and magnificent collection of insects, which, besides, containing the result of his own researches in India and China, and the different collections made by Wallace, Bates, Mouchet, and others, includes Mr. Tatum's cabinet of carabids, Mr. Jeckel's curculionids, and Chevrolat's and Curtis's Longicorn beetles.



## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

DEATH has begun his annual vacation work. Two members have fallen since Parliament dispersed—to wit, Mr. Willes Johnstone, member for the Montgomery district; and Mr. Beriah Botfield, member for Ludlow. Of the first of these nothing need be said more than this:—He came into Parliament in 1861. He did nothing whilst there, and he has quietly vanished. Mr. Beriah Botfield, though not a Parliamentary notable, was far above the level of common men. He was a scholar. It was only a few months ago that there came out a noble volume (printed, I think, for private circulation) of Classical Pseudections, edited by Mr. Botfield. He was, moreover, a learned archaeologist and antiquary. Those excavations at Wroxeter—on his own estate, I believe—which excited so much attention a year or two ago, were made under his superintendence and at his expense. The death of Mr. Botfield, I confess, surprised me; for he was not an old man—only fifty-six—neither did he appear to be at all likely to fall so soon.

The farmers of Cambridgeshire are getting up a testimonial to Mr. Edward Ball, their late member, and he deserves it. For, whatever may be thought of Mr. Ball's political creed—which was, to be sure, somewhat narrow—he, to the best of his ability, did his duty as their representative. Besides, he was the first real tenant-farmer who, for over a century—nearer two centuries, I should say—asserted successfully against all the power of landlordism the right of the tenant-farmer to send one of their own class to Parliament. One is sorry to hear, though, that the testimonial fund languishes. Let us hope that the splendid harvest now being reaped will set it going with renewed life.

Mr. Goldsworthy Gurney, the efficient ventilator of the Houses of Parliament, and generally a scientific man and discoverer, is to be knighted. Singularly enough, the information came to me just as I had finished a sail through the Menai Straits, under the magnificent bridges of Telford and Robert Stephenson; and, naturally, I remembered that the latter was offered a knighthood, and refused it. And no wonder. To such a man the offer of such a paltry title, which in the days of Charles II. had fallen into contempt, was little less than an insult. A baronetcy he might, perhaps, have accepted; a peerage would not have been more than commensurate with his deserts. That marvellous bridge alone, if he had done nothing more, entitled him to the highest distinction which the Sovereign has to bestow. If I were Mr. Goldsworthy Gurney I think I should follow the example of Stephenson, and refuse this questionable distinction, unless more hands upon its reception than we can see. Sometimes this is the case. I knew a gentleman, who is now dead, who, being very poor, offered his hand and heart to a fair widow who had a large fortune entirely at her disposal. "Make me a lady," and I will marry you," said the richly-endowed widow. And straightway he went to a noble Lord, then in the Government, who owed the gentleman a turn for certain labours undertaken and expense incurred in a contested election in which the noble Lord had won a seat in Parliament, and told him the case. "Make me a Lord," says the aspirant to fame and fortune. "No," replied the noble Lord, "I cannot do that." "A Baronet, then." "Nor that; I can get you a knighthood." Whereupon, the gentleman consulted his fair widow. "Will it make me a lady?" "Yes." "Well, that will do." And he returned to his patron and got his knighthood, and ultimately the lady's hand and fortune.

Let no boastful trader, in his cups or otherwise, proclaim falsely that he has got an exhibition medal; for by an Act, passed last Session, such a vain boast may cost him a heavy penalty, even though he may not have any fraudulent intent. Yes, even so. For the first time in the annals of legislation mere lying is made a statutory crime. This strange measure was introduced into the House of Lords within a few days of the prorogation. It passed rapidly, leaping over the standing orders. The faults of the bill were pointed out by Mr. Ayrton, and the Solicitor-General disapproved of it; but time pressed, a promise was given that the measure should be amended next Session, and it passed.

Mr. Homersham Cox, author of "The British Commonwealth," &c., has just launched a thick book of 750 pages, entitled "The Institution of the English Government," and dedicated, by permission, to Mr. Gladstone. This work, if it has been done well, will prove a valuable addition to our Constitutional literature; all, however, of course depends upon its accuracy. I have but just got the book, and am not yet prepared to decide upon its merits. But, casually opening it at page 136-7, I think I discovered one manifest blunder. Mr. Cox tells us that, if the House of Commons meets before four o'clock, the Speaker is to stay a reasonable time for a sufficient number of members to come in. And then again he tells us that in Committees of the whole House, both before and after four o'clock, if it be found that fewer than forty members are present, the House forthwith resumes and adjourns. Now, this is not the practice of the House. Before four o'clock, if notice be taken that fewer than forty members are present, whether the House be in Committee or not, the Speaker cannot adjourn the House, but must suspend business, and wait until a sufficient number come in to make the forty, or until four o'clock. In short, as is well known, there cannot be a count out until four o'clock.

The cotton Confederate Bonds have fallen, are falling, and will fall. These Bonds have all along been a delusion, as all who have considered the subject well know. Russian Stock at 5 per cent is at about 93; a little while ago they were 96; Italian is at 70 to 73. Both these are substantial sound Stocks. Well, if these be the prices of these good sound Stocks, how was it that such a confessedly rickety Stock as these Confederate Bonds came out at 101 premium? Apart from all feeling in favour of or against the Confederates, but measuring the value of these bonds, in the strict scales of the market, they never were worth half this. The fact is, they were lifted up to this price by disgraceful puffing; and, from what I hear, I am almost afraid that the puffers will not be the sufferers by the fall. They have long since sold out. Nor would one be inclined to pity the mere speculators; but, in all these cases, a number of poor silly women, who have money at command and are greedy of high interest, rush at the golden bait; and I hear that in this case a great number of women are the victims. And here let me point out that the fall in these Bonds is not 30 per cent but 75, for only £2 is paid up.

Mr. Mudie was once a blameless public servant. He is not now. Success has spoiled him, I suppose. I have always had so keen a sense of his usefulness and former services that I have, of late years, when others have complained of him, taken his part both in public and private, except on the question of his right to exclude books which are demanded. But I can take his part no longer. It is quite a common thing, now, to ask for a book every other day for a fortnight, and not to get it. I am so anxious to remember that it is impossible to please everybody, and that it must be harassing work to adjust the supply to the demand, that I am most loth to complain. For years I have resisted the occasional temptation to do so; but I do now distinctly say that I think Mr. Mudie's library ill-managed. I speak chiefly with regard to more recent books, though there is room for amendment as to standard works not quite recent. I could mention three, of which I cannot but suppose that Mr. Mudie has only retained one copy—at least, it is my luck always to get the same, year after year. I could mention a great German writer—perfectly pure and orthodox—of whose works in German the Library series is incomplete, while the English translation of the missing book is mutilated. I once began to explain this to one of the clerks at the counter. I might as well have talked to "Teneriffe or Atlas unremoved." I never before felt what true greatness was, and slunk away, convinced that not only was Mr. Mudie the Napoleon of Libraries (as he used to be called), but that he had managed to surround himself with a breed of young Napoleons, whose habits of imperial reserve, relieved by epigram, were designed to make learning awful to the vulgar. This was in old days. Lately, Mr. Mudie has taken to placing in the front ranks an awkward squad of country lads, who appear to have come to town to learn manners. The fact is, they don't know any better, for they evidently do not mean to be unwell; and I can affirm that they are very much teased by foolish women, who do not care what

trouble they give, and bring their draper's-shop manners to Mr. Mudie's counter.

An apparently substantial grievance has just reached me as the current talk of the Senior United Service Club. There are, it seems, three general officers—Mr. Thorsen, Bell, and Law—who served with distinction in the Peninsular War, and who have not yet been appointed to colonelcies of regiments. That a General should wish to be made a Colonel is, as I need hardly mention, explained by the fact that the last-named position confers a comfortable increase of income upon its holder. Now, Lord William Paulet, who is ten or twelve years the junior of each of the officers I have named, has just been appointed to the colonelcy made vacant by the death of Lord Downes and the transfer of General Sir James Simpson to the 29th. Hence there is much talk and grievous dissatisfaction among the veterans' friends; for though—from the fact of Lord William having forty-two years' service, and having held command in the Crimea, besides being, through some arrangement difficult for the civilian mind to comprehend, before them on the list—he is allowed to have strong claims, still it is held to be a stigma on the Horse Guards and the country that the brilliant services of the officers I have named should be yet unrequited by an appointment to which all old Generals look forward as a sort of right. I trust the strongly expressed, very strongly expressed, opinions of the elder members of the service will not be without their effect upon his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, and that we shall soon hear of three regiments being placed at the disposal of these old heroes.

What is the precise aim and scope of the official inspections made by the Lords of the Admiralty? To see that the dockyards and naval arsenals are in proper order, that the men are at their posts, and the stores, guns, and ammunition are duly cared for, is the obvious reply. How gratifying, then, must it be to the bellicose taxpayer to learn that "the proficiency displayed," the order preserved, and the admirable condition of everything, obtained the warmest commendation from their Lordships!

Sweet is the breath of praise, when given by those  
Whose own high merit claims the praise they give;

and the dockyard officials may well be proud of the encomiums passed upon them by the Admiralty Board. But the whole business is too "cut and dried." Each year, I am told, sees these official trips becoming more and more a matter of form. Due notice is given of the approach of their Lordships, everything is prepared for their previously-announced visit, and both dockyards and men are carefully put in order and drilled into what is called "turning the best side towards London." Agreeable outings they may be: inspections, in the proper sense of the word, they are not, any more than a carefully-rehearsed tableau is an incident in real life.

"A mile of danger at eightpence" was Mr. Samuel Weller's definition of a cab-ride. Should any of your readers feel disposed to contract for a quantity of danger, they will have an admirable opportunity of doing so at the Baden-Baden races next month. A balloon on a new principle, such principle consisting of a "substitution of a screw and of inclined planes for the present system of air balloons," with a car two stories high, and accommodation for eighty persons, is announced to start for an eight days' trip from the races aforesaid. Models of this balloon were exhibited a few days ago before the National Institute of France, by its inventor, M. Nadar, and experiments tried with success. So 12,000 yards of white silk are being specially manufactured; subscribers for the trip have already put down their names; and one more daring effort at aerial locomotion is forthcoming. Icarus and Sinbad the Sailor are to be, perhaps, realised after all; but those who are neither emulous of the fate of the one nor the adventures of the other will be satisfied to wait until success is established and risk reduced. No English names are among those of the subscribers.

The railway companies are furnishing quite an exciting little fund of gossip. First, there is the turbulent meeting of the Great Western, and the "shutting up" of the rebellious would-be president Adams. The shareholders, strange to say, appear satisfied, Pangloss-like, that their board is the best of all possible boards; and when Mr. Secretary Saunders impugned, not without success, Mr. Adams's conduct in connection with opponents of the company, the cause of the reformers was virtually lost. They appear to have been unfortunate in their leader; but the war-cry I named last week, of "things being so bad that they could not be made worse," was not a good one, even for a forlorn hope, and perhaps determined the sufferers to bear present evils rather than accept new blood, which might lead them into others of indefinite extent. Another subject of talk is the squabble between this company and the Metropolitan, which has resulted in transferring the working of the Underground Railway to the Great Northern and North-Western Companies. The mysterious part of this quarrel is its teaching the Metropolitan shareholders for the first time that the Bishop's-road station is not their own property. All calculations of mileage traffic have been made upon a supposed distance of three miles and three-quarters (the entire length of the opened line); and those interested are already crying out that dust has been thrown in their eyes, and that the legal rights of the Great Western have never been openly explained to them. But neither of these little scandals equal in unpleasantness the vague rumours to which the retirement of an official long connected with another railway company has given rise. Gigantic profits, a questionable sharing of commission with brokers of easy virtue, and a general feathering of the private nest at the shareholders' expense, are among the most temperate of the charges whispered; but, inasmuch as testimonials and increases of salary have been gratefully proffered to the gentleman in question at no distant date, it seems obvious either that this talk is malicious and groundless, or that the directorate have been culpably blind.

Blondin has succeeded Gygell, the son of Gygell, as an epistolary defender of the art of rope-dancing. Both these eminent professors fall into an error in imagining it is assailed. Neither in the Queen's letter, in the leaders of the Thunderer, nor in the conversational strictures evoked by the Birmingham tragedy, has, as far as I know, rope-dancing, as rope-dancing, been denounced. It is the Lucretian enjoyment of gazing in safety upon a fellow-creature risking his life for the amusement of the gazers, which is compared to the combats of the gladiator and declared to be demoralising to the public. Neither the extreme strength of the particular rope used by M. Blondin, nor the fact of Mr. Gygell having danced with safety up to the natural age of sixty-three, affect the case one jot, and, save as advertisements, it is difficult to discern a motive for the letters of these gentlemen to the Times.

And, apropos of correspondence with the leading journal, you may be interested to learn that the Maharanee Chunda Kour, just deceased, was not, as has been freely stated, the wife of Runjeet Singh. A dancing-girl of rare beauty, she fascinated the old Monarch, and, when her child was acknowledged, rose to power. Lord Dalhousie described her, even when in exile, as the only native the British Government ought to fear; and there seems little doubt that she instigated the great Sikh rebellion, and was guilty of much treacherous bloodshed. But the point of social interest connected with her name is the complaint just made by two of her followers that her son Dhuleep Singh, who is a Christian, has denied her remains the rites demanded by the religion of the Sikhs. The complaint was suspicious, from the fact of these followers being discharged servants; and when the letter, signed "J. Oliphant," denying the charge on behalf of Dhuleep, was published, all reasonable doubt as to the motives at work disappeared. Besides, crossing the sea breaks a Hindoo's caste, so that, even if females are eligible for the paradise of the Sikhs, burning her ashes and throwing them into the Ganges would be useless after the evil done. The writer of the note of explanation was the Colonel Oliphant who was formerly in the Indian army, and afterwards, if I mistake not, chairman of the East India Company, but who has for some years held an appointment in the household of his Highness Dhuleep Singh, and so was fully justified in writing on his behalf.

Why won't the serious world let our amusements alone, and why is London to be made their especial care? Surely the souls of, say, Manchester and Birmingham are as precious as those of Cockaigne; but yet the "fifteen Bishops, eight Deans, fifteen Archdeacons, the

great number of the benefited clergy, peers, and members of Parliament," who memorialised the Archbishop the other day to exert himself to have the naughty theatres closed during Passion Week confined their attention to the metropolis! Surely the Lord Chamberlain will be firm, for, as has been well said, there is no social or moral question involved, but simply one of religious manners. Now, those who deem it wrong to partake of certain amusements during a particular season have an admitted right to their opinion, but they have no sort of right to force that opinion upon those who think differently; and as thousands of well-conducted, sober, industrious people are thrown out of work (and out of pay, there's the rub!) every time the theatres are closed, these Lords and gentlemen should remember that, as the trite axiom tells us, no one was ever made religious by Act of Parliament; and that to deprive our neighbour of his daily bread is a questionable rendering of the Christian code.

Who believes in dreams? Do they go by contraries, as bold Rory O'More declared? or are they to be taken as trustworthy guides for our daily life? The latter theory would appear to be believed in by some portion of the public, for a periodical is announced, having for its title "The Dreamer," to be published weekly at one penny, and to be devoted solely to the interpretation of dreams.

Did you read in the papers on Monday the orders relative to the departure of the Queen from Woolwich? The most stringent measures to ensure privacy were prescribed; clerks were not to approach the windows of their offices, and, under certain contingencies, arrest was threatened to starers. The measures are usual, I believe, *teste* the "Arabian Nights," when the favourite Sultana goes to the bath; but since the days of Lady Godiva we have assuredly never heard their like in England; and there is good reason to believe that they were issued without her Majesty's knowledge, and that she very decidedly disapproves of them.

## THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The theatrical season of 1863 has been by no means a good one, so far as pecuniary results are concerned, for most managers. In consequence of the contemplated marriage of the Prince of Wales and the reaction from the dreariness caused by the absence of the Court, and the mourning tone which, as per instructions, pervaded everything, it was hoped that this spring would have been one of especial brilliancy. So far as amusements are concerned, these hopes have certainly not been realised. But very few really good plays have been produced, and, save in one or two instances, the patronage accorded to these has been by no means what was expected.

At DRURY LANE Mr. Falconer, after a very successful career at the Lyceum, undertook the leasehold from Christmas, and produced a capital pantomime, which, as usual, proved a three months' mine of success. When the run of the pantomime abated he brought out a piece called "Bonnie Dundee," which had been many months in preparation, which had the advantage of Telbin's scenery and a most liberal and judicious *mise en scène*, and which yet failed direfully on account of its own intrinsic badness as a piece. In the failure of "Bonnie Dundee" one saw the axe laid to the root of the tree; nothing new was in readiness, for it was understood that the management had been thoroughly sanguine as to the hit about to be made, so, after a little drifting about with "Extremes" and "Peep o' Day," both of which proved themselves exhausted and unattractive, the theatre closed. I hear Mr. Phelps is to be among the company next season.

The HAYMARKET at the beginning of the year was running on greased wheels, as it had done for some time previously, with Mr. Sothorn's performance of Lord Dundreary, and the tide of success continued with very little abatement until Easter, when Mr. Sothorn left for the provinces. Then came Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wigan, with Lady Gifford's quasi-comedy of "Pinesse," which, though enormously press-puffed and pushed by every available private interest, was a bad piece, an unintelligible piece, and a non-remunerative piece. It was infinitely below the capacities of either Mr. or Mrs. Wigan, and simply served as a vehicle for some of Mr. Buckstone's practical drolleries and preposterous costumes. In addition to this, there has been an Easter piece by Mr. Stirling Coyne, principally remarkable as the vehicle for introducing Mr. Telbin's admirably-painted diorama of the Holy Land. If Mr. Buckstone would take a hint, I would say "Let us see a little more of that admirable actor, Mr. Compton—who has lately played the audience in at seven, when one is at dinner—or played them out at 12.30, when one is in bed."

The LYCEUM opened on Jan. 10 and closed last Saturday. The bill has never been changed, and the success has been enormous.

The PRINCESS's opened under the management of a Mr. Lindars, whose name had never been heard of, but whose principal object seemed to be to introduce one Miss Constance Aylmer to a British public. The lady had not the smallest idea of acting, and speedily succumbed to fate. Then Mr. George Vining, seceding from Mr. Fechter's company, undertook the Princess's management, opening with "Camp and Court," a long, unintelligible, and not good piece, admirably put on the stage, but making his first hit with a dramatized version of "Aurora Floyd"—the world coming not to see Miss Sedgwick as the heroine, but Mr. Belmore as the Softy. Since then, Mr. Walter Montgomery, long announced as the "Coming Man," came—was seen—and didn't conquer, proving himself a useful actor, but by no means a wonder. The last few weeks of the season at the Princess's have been successful, owing to the interest excited by Mdle. Stella Colas, a puny Frenchwoman—pretty, piquante, and that is all—a mouthing, ranting, gesticulating, pretty Frenchwoman.

The ADELPHI had nothing worthy of notice, unless it be the version of "Aurora Floyd," more singularly unlike the novel than could have been imagined, a humorous farce on the garotting terror, Mr. Byron's burlesque of "The Trovatore," and the ghost drama, wherein Mr. Toole's acting was worth a journey to see.

The ST. JAMES's has had a fair average season, principally owing to the hit made by Miss Herbert in "Lady Audley's Secret," a sensation-piece, the production of which shelled a very pretty comedy, called "The Merry Widow."

At the OLYMPIC, Mr. Robson's "attacks" proved very detrimental to the fortunes of the theatre at the commencement of the season; but, latterly, "The Ticket-of-Leave Man" has been an undoubted success.

The little STRAND has had, I fear, but a bad time of it. The sudden death of its manager, with its attendant painful circumstances—the secession of Miss Wilton, Miss Oliver, and Mr. Rogers, and the accident to Mr. Clark, have all contributed to swell its adversity. Let us hope that better nights are in store.

On Christmas Eve Mr. Boucicault opened the WESTMINSTER THEATRE, up to that period known as "Astley's." His first piece was, "To Parents and Guardians;" followed by a pantomime. Shortly afterwards came out his *cheval de bataille*, "The Trial of Effie Deans." There is no need to dwell on these matters. The whole affair was a failure from beginning to end, and the theatre was closed long before the usual time.

THE SPANISH COURT AND GOVERNMENT have resolved to bestow some relief on the sufferers from the earthquake at Manilla.

AMONG THE 5,788,967 PERSONS enumerated in Ireland at the census of 1861 no less than 742 are returned as being of the age of 100 years and upwards. 278 of these aged persons were men and 464 were women.

INCIDENTS OF THE SIEGE OF FORT WAGNER.—A Confederate letter from Charleston tells the following story:—"Soon after the falling back of our small infantry force it was discovered that the Federals had possession of the former head-quarters of Colonel Graham, and planted a large flag upon the cupola or look-out. White handkerchiefs were now visible waving in front of the battery from individuals and groups signifying surrender; and every man who attempted to run was unerringly picked off by the rifles of our infantry; others were found lying flat on their faces, hugging closely the slope of the battery, and awaiting an opportunity to enter the fort and give themselves up. Among these were several officers. One fellow, about twenty-four years of age, was found half buried in the sand, where he had ineffectually endeavoured to 'trench' himself. He was a long, slab-sided Connecticut Lieutenant, six feet and a half, slim enough for a ramrod, while he seemed very weak in the knees. 'What's the matter with you, are you hurt?' was the inquiry. 'No,' whined the cowardly Yankee, 'I guess I ain't hurt; but am so faint and exhausted. I wish I hadn't come.'"





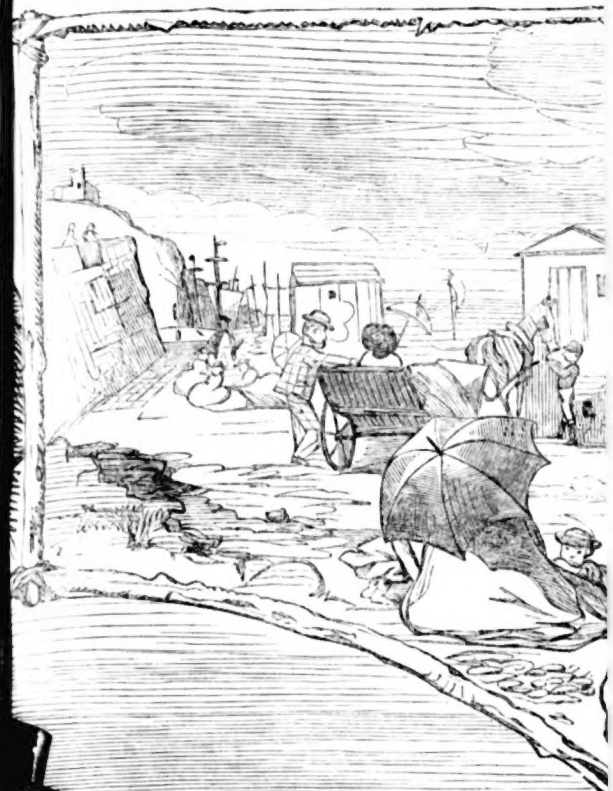
MARGATE



BOURNMOUTH.



HASTINGS.



RYDE.









## THE SEASIDE.

THE very name of the seaside has a refreshing sound to unhappy Londoners, who are still kept in town while the thermometer is at blood-heat, and even the centre avenue of Covent-garden Market affords only a temporary shade. "The seaside" has come to mean the holiday which stilled Londoners take once a year in order to blow off the accumulated smoke and dyspepsia of the previous eleven months; and guide-books, railway time-tables, and cheap excursion-bills bear this heading, as though the words had some talismanic attraction. And so they have; for they bring before us visions of great waves tumbling in upon shingly beach or yellow sand; of some great expanse of blue water, with white-sailed ships and white-winged gulls riding in its foaming ridges; of cool green sea-reaches lying under the early sun and inviting to an early bath; of cool, rocky caves where water drips from fantastic eaves, and the breakers beating on the coast sing as they sweep the shells and pebbles to the shore; of the morning walk upon the sands; of the after-dinner lounge at the pier or the balcony; of the evening assembly or the stroll by moonlight; of novels re-devoured; of sleepy fishing-boats riding at anchor; of buff slippers, straw hats, telescopes, shrimp teas, fish breakfasts, rattles, picnics compounded of romantic lethargy and gastronomic indifference. The "seaside" has a meaning to all classes of English society; and from the Bishop who seeks dignified retirement at Llandudno to the poorest excursionist who takes a half-crown ticket for Southend, every Londoner looks forward to at least a glimpse of the ocean once a year.

It is difficult to decide whether Scarborough or North Wales bears the palm amongst aristocratic watering-places. The equipages and the costumes are, perhaps, in favour of the former; but there is a quiet *swell* about Llandudno and the Welsh coast, too. Both are becoming fashionable resorts for two professions; the clerical and the high historic, or musical, element abounds at each. At Scarborough the promenade and the drive are fashionable amusements, for which visitors dress with an elaborate negligence more fatiguing than the grand tenue of the assembly. In North Wales there is rather less effect, and greater opportunities for quiet parties amongst the rocks for the purpose of sketching, smoking, or flirting.

Ryde means not only by the sea, but on the sea, the boatmen being the great caterers for amusement; and there are few more delightful non-occupations than lolling comfortably on the deck cushions, with enough breeze to swing the vessel jauntily along and carry the blue smoke from your cigar streaming up into the clear air. Ryde is a wonderful and charming place for young couples, as the boatmen well know; and there are few places better adapted for love-making than the deck of one of the bright pleasure-yachts, especially when "a little bit of a sea" comes on towards evening, and the support of a manly arm becomes necessary.

Margate is in itself an epitome of the middle classes of England—the recognised family watering-place of the butcher, the baker, the candlestick-maker, and the well-to-do members of every other calling. Here Paterfamilias, leaving his counting-house or shop, comes down on Saturday by the "husbands' boat," his arrival being anxiously watched from the jetty or the pier by a number of bright eyes, and signalled by the waving of gay parasols. Here Angelina of No. 22 is pretty sure to meet Edwin of No. 25, either on the jetty, where the sea-breeze brings early roses into fair cheeks and blows damp ringlets out of curl, and is altogether rude with muslin skirts—or at the assembly-rooms at night, where there is a ball after the concert. Margate rejoices in mixed company, much of which, in its turn, delights in mixed liquors. There is a good deal of the rural element with shrimps, tea, and new bread and butter, and (in the town, at all events) a strong exhibition of the tavern element, with hot ordinaries and a glass of something afterwards in a close, dingy "coffee-room." But the doctors have all agreed that there are few places so healthy, and pale faces do glow and brighten there somehow, in spite even of the assembly, which we remember as a very terrible place indeed. Still, at the assembly there is always a pretty good attendance, for it is almost the only evening amusement; and across the square, where the wind is always blowing, the flies set down their family parties gaily enough. That great bare room somehow reminds us of George IV. (he once dined there, we hear), and, as it is now furnished only with rout seats, and the great, high, cavernous chimneys yawn for lack of fires, it needs something to stir it into life. The first two songs in the concert seem to go out into the great bare space with a wailing sound; but things improve as they go on, and as the room fills the air thaws. The concert once over and the forms cleared away, an attenuated M.C., with that singular precedence of the legs which characterises the M.C. walk, begins to form the first dance, and in another ten minutes away go the company, the orchestra fiddling like mad; for, you see, it's all against time, and the character of the entertainment is preserved by strict decorum and early hours.

Margate, Ramsgate, and Brighton are all celebrated for their bathing, and at each the first great ceremony of the day is the "morning dip." Competition amongst the proprietors of machines has reduced the business to a terrible pass, and the appearance of a fresh visitor on the beach is the signal for a struggle which not unfrequently ends in a personal altercation amongst the rival touters. Yet, even with this, there is often very great difficulty in getting the "dip" before midday, since machines are engaged three deep, and "some people are such an absurd time-tivvating." There are quite fierce feuds at Brighton on this subject, and the artful circumvention of the desperate racing resorted to in order to obtain the first vacant caravan is one of the most extraordinary spectacles of the day. On the whole, Brighton is more showy than Margate; and this may be accounted for by the presence of a large proportion of the daughters of Israel, brave in jewellery, feathers, and back hair. There is a strong aristocratic element, too, at Brighton; for it is deservedly an old favourite with a good many high families; and then, alter, and desecrate, and nearly burn down the Pavilion as you will, the odour of "the first gentleman in Europe" will cling to it still. Perhaps the jolliest, and in a vulgar sense the healthiest, element at Brighton are the excursionists. They would ruin the place with their stone bottles and their knuckles of ham, and lobsters and gin punch; but before they can be denounced as they swarm upon the beach or parade the town, behold! the railway bell rings and they vanish, to return no more till next June. So Brighton proper grins and bears with them.

What a contrast to these lively, rattling, full-blooded places are some other of our seaside retreats—say Bournemouth, for instance! There are few unseemly irritations there, and life goes calmly and correctly on, generally on "Low Church" principles, and the placid delights of mental pleasures, which, as the text-hand copy remarks, "never cloy." Great in educational establishments and in the gentle influences of unstimulated existence, Bournemouth is one of the most charming retreats in England.

Of a still different type is Hastings, with all its charming and romantic vicinity. Life here ebbs low, it is true; for it is too often life which has been exhausted by disease and now has but a slight hold on the things of time and sense. One of the great pleasures of Hastings is to watch the gradual restoration of some of these weak frames and pallid faces, as the soft south wind blows on them day by day from the great healing sea. It is this which fills one of the loveliest places in the world with half melancholy associations. There is so little of the robust there—so many come to seek a gradual cure, to drink in strength from the summer air after long months of pain—so many come to linger yet a little while upon the borders of this world, and then to die.

We can do no more than thus glance at some of our "seaside" resorts, or much might be said of the bathing-machines; of sea-side lodgings with their half-carpeted floors; of the front doors always on the latch; of the great piece of seaweed which, we have heard, will serve, when dry, as a weather-glass, but which never does dry, and fills our bedroom with the odour of a stale stock-fish; of the salt towels and pebbly soap; of the window that won't open, and yet won't shut; and of the libraries, where none but third volumes are ever disengaged. Of all these things might we speak, and yet be only recounting the experiences of all our readers at "the seaside."

## OUR FEUILLETON.

## THE LONG RECKONING.

(Continued from page 91.)

## CHAPTER IV.

"At my wit's end. Tell nobody. Come and help me, if you have any pity for an unlucky mortal who deserves none. Yours, ERNEST."

So ran the telegram from Viscount Gaveloch, 23, Rue Miromesnils, Champs Elysées, to Edmund Strensal, Park-street, Grosvenor-square. "Wit's end" probably means "ready money's end." I hope it may be no worse than an arrest for debt," thought Strensal, as he shot back the complex mechanism of slots and bolts in his iron safe, and provided himself with a crisp sheaf of Bank of England paper, some specimens of which seemed to bear long figures. "If he has been at cards and dice again, this goldbeater's skin will hardly stanch his wound. But it may be love, not money. Perhaps there has been an exposé in that wretched intrigue! Surely he would find some more congenial friend to back him up in a pistol-match with old T—, if they have to settle their domestic differences in the Bois. My mother will be terribly alarmed, and think all sorts of things. Tell nobody! No doubt, then, he has some imprudent scheme in contemplation that he does not wish his father to get wind of. However, he is in trouble of some sort, and he appeals to me; so I must see what I can do for him. Perhaps I may be the means of getting him clear of that detestable business. And if Julia has been at her tricks again, I may gather a little fresh information about her manoeuvres which I shall be at liberty to lay before John; for if there be any mischief stirring she will have a finger or two, if not all her hand—nay, in that case let us hope, her foot too—in it.

So the note was written, and the valet brought the bag down stairs, and the footman had the cab at the door, and Strensal was just too late for the 6.15 train.

However, the rail was likely to be clear in its immediate wake. He would not wait for a carriage to be attached, and started in the tender of a special engine, which tore away through the rushing air at seventy miles an hour.

Sitting on the engine-driver's great coat, spread over a heap of coke in the tender, and wondering whether his ears would blow off and his hair come up by the roots, while he held his hat on his knee with both hands and watched the features of the landscape drawn out into flying ribbons, his thoughts naturally turned to the swiftness of modern intercommunications. How long would have elapsed between the despatch of the message and his arrival in Paris? He got the telegram out of his waistcoat pocket, and, grasping his hat between his knees, examined the fluttering paper's pencilled lines. There was no date to it.

"How long will one of these things take between Paris and London?" he inquired of the engineer, who was shovelling up a scuttful of coke.

"Well, Sir, I couldn't rightly say. It's pretty much as they happens to fit in with the telegraph clerk's meal-times; and they ain't been very regular lately, because the submarine cable's up repairing at this end, and the steam-boat captains brings 'em over in his pocket, and then they're telegraphed hon. I should say, one thing with another, if you telegraphed before you started you'd get there about as soon as your message, and may be quicker. You see, Sir, where there's a good deal of changing hands there will be slips somewhere. That's about the length of it."

"And so, if the telegraph clerk at Canterbury happened to be at his tea when this special was telegraphed down line, we may run into a luggage-train any minute, I suppose?"

"Not quite so bad as that, Sir. They're a little bit more particular with line business. There ain't no fear; I stepped into the telegraph office and saw the young man get back the signal of 'line clear.' I've got a wife and family myself, Sir."

They overtook the train, without accident, at Canterbury. There was fair weather in the Channel, but little delay at Calais, and Strensal reached Gaveloch's lodgings a little before seven. He went up stairs and found the door of the *appartement* on the premier open and a man in blue trousers and white-brown shirt-sleeves skating about on a pair of brushes, attached to his feet by broad loops, polishing the oaken floor of the anteroom.

"Oui, Monsieur, it was here; but milord Gaveloch was not there; not even his servant, M. François. They were both gone forth of great morning, in carriage. He hoped nothing *funeste* had taken place. Would Monsieur have some *café au lait* and repose himself if he came to arrive from voyage?"

Strensal entered the salon. There was a powerful odour of tobacco, mixed with the fumes of an extinguished lamp. Pens, paper, and blotting-book lay about the table in confusion, and a large thick packet, like an overgrown letter, lay, seal uppermost, with a dagger-shaped paper-knife across it. It was sealed with Gaveloch's signet ring, and round the seal was written "In case of accident."

He turned it over and found it was directed to himself.

"In case of accident!" Who could tell whether an accident might not have taken place already? Might there not be some information that would serve for precautionary measures? He was on the point of opening it when an exclamation from the house-servant brought him to the window. A carriage, coming along the street at a furious pace, pulled up suddenly at the door, and a gentleman, with a strapped and buckled leather case in his hand, jumped down nimbly and entered the house.

Strensal met him on the landing. "What has happened?" he asked, breathlessly.

"Ah! then it is not you, decidedly, who are my patient. I am summoned to dress the wounds of a young milord who has been hurt in a duel. *Ha! montez!*" he cried out of the window to a man in livery. "It is the servant of his adversary. He was present at the affair, and was dispatched to have me here against the arrival of the wounded. He will satisfy you of the particulars."

The man said that Monsieur le Comte and milord had beaten themselves with swords at the Bois de Boulogne; and, after a few passes, milord received a thrust in the body. He did not fall, but staggered a little and dropped his sword, and then the seconds assisted him. Then, as he seemed faint, they laid him down and looked at his wound. It did not show much—a mere puncture, and but little blood flowed from it. They gave him a little brandy, and after that it was decided that he might be moved from the spot at a slow pace, and they were converting the carriage into a sort of litter, with the swords between the seats to support cushions, when he was sent off, post haste, with the other carriage for Monsieur the surgeon.

Strensal was beginning to inquire about the exact situation of the wound, when there were sounds of fresh arrival, and this time it was Lord Gaveloch. He was lying back as near at full length as the carriage would allow. The hood of the carriage was up; but when Strensal could get sight of his face it was ashy pale, and the features seemed drawn and sunken.

When he recognised his cousin's anxious and distressed countenance, the wounded man made a faint attempt to smile, and put out his hand; but the quivering of the leaden-coloured eyelids and the twitching of the white lips showed that the movement caused him great pain. A shutter was shoved under him as he lay, during which he ground his teeth a little, but the surgeon managed his removal with great promptness and dexterity. When he was once on the shutter, with a pillow under his head, he was slewed round and lifted, feet foremost, out of the carriage, and head foremost up the stairs, without hitch or jolt, and deposited on his bed. Then his clothes were ripped and drawn away, and the wound was examined.

It seemed, indeed, a small affair to cause so much disturbance and anxiety. A little triangular red spot about the size and shape of a capital Delta in ordinary schoolbook print, surrounded by a slight violet-coloured aureole, and a patch or two of blood on the shirt, were all the external signs of mischief.

The surgeon, however, contemplated it gravely, pressed slightly round about it, put his stethoscope to it, and, after listening a moment, said,

"Allons! there is no great amount of inward bleeding." Then he took the bearings and distance of the wound from the points of the hip-bone and the junction of the ribs. It lay half an inch below the direct line between these points—just three inches from the right hip. He inquired as to the sensations of the sufferer, who said that when he lay still he felt only a gnawing rawness inside and a prickly burning about the surface; but when he breathed it was like a saw with large teeth going through the midst of his vitals. It was much worse, though, when he was moved. But at intervals there was a different pain which seemed lower down—a sort of pain which made him feel sick.

"Ah!" said the surgeon, with a tone of interest, "You feel that?" then he nodded his head once or twice, as if to imply that it was a familiar and rather satisfactory symptom. "The muscular tissues of the epigastrium are full of sensitive nerves. It is nothing but a flesh wound; there is everything to hope. Be tranquil; move not at all; sleep if you can; drink eau sucrée; eat gruel. We will not derange you further. I will come back to see you before the evening; and in the meantime will send a nurse and a few simple medicaments."

"Edmund," said Gaveloch, as his cousin touched his hand lightly and congratulated him on the favourable report, "make out from him exactly how things are likely to go with me. I feel as if I was badly hurt; and, if I am to die, for God's sake let me know it at once."

"Don't think of such things, old fellow; you'll be all right in a few days."

"I have very little left in this world that I care to live for; I only wish I was a little fitter for the next. You will come back in a minute, won't you?"

"All right; François will call me if you get impatient."

When Strensal passed into the salon it was empty, but he heard a subdued sound of voices through the closed folding doors of the room beyond. Entering it, he found the surgeon and a group of young Frenchmen. Two of them had swords in their hands, and were in fencing attitudes. They lowered their points on his entrance.

"Monsieur, the cousin of milord," said the surgeon; "Messieurs the antagonist and the two witnesses."

"The honour of saluting you," said the Count, while everybody bowed; "we make an investigation geometrico-chirurgical to show the angle of incidence at which the blade penetrated. The stroke was thus" (the Count, in replacing himself in position, could not avoid a few graceful preliminary flourishes). "I disengage; I make two feints and a thrust, not too insistent; I recover with ease; I parry a well-intentioned attack; I recommence; I establish a simple regularity of play; I accustom his blade to a formula in *quarte* but little varied, until, *cric!* he loses my blade; *crao!* I touch him thus in *tierce*."

"Was the attitude of Lord Galuc precisely that?" said the surgeon, appealing to the other second.

"The right knee a little more bent, which would bring the body a shade lower; but then Lord Géléc is rather taller, which corrects the error, or thereabouts."

"No great thing. I have five feet eight inches."\*

"It is quite enough for a good approximation," said the doctor, marking the position of the wound and applying the point of the Count's sword to it. "Do you see, the blade slopes downward about one in three? How deep should you suppose, M. le Comte?"

"I recovered myself quickly. It was an instantaneous touch rather than a thrust. I should say three inches at most."

"Even two inches in that direction would bring the point dangerously near the turn of the colon. If that is pierced he is a dead man. I did not like his description of that faint feeling."

"What are his chances of recovery according to your best calculation of the probabilities?"

"Ma foi, it depends on the great intestine. If that is not injured he will recover easily. If it is, he will die of it. Let us hope the best. This is the fatal weapon?" examining the point; "unfortunately it is sharpened to a very fine point, and the edges are keen; so that if it touched it must catch and rip. A blunter point, even though piercing to the same depth, impinging obliquely on a rounded, greasy, yielding surface like an intestine, would be disposed to depress and slide over the membrane without slitting it. Still it is an even chance."

"Will it increase his danger to be aware of it? He begged earnestly to be informed of his true condition."

"Pardi! One is more tranquil if one thinks himself in safety. But anxiety pierces not the intestines in a literal sense. If they are sound, inquietude may retard his recovery a little, but he will recover all the same. If they are injured we shall know in the course of a few hours by symptoms we cannot mistake—continuous pain and violent sickness, fainting fits, incapacity to retain food, inflammation, fever, delirium, and, after three or four days, death."

A diversion was now effected by the supervision of a sergeant of police, who invited all the parties concerned to accompany him and make their declaration of the facts at the prefecture.

The party were ready to comply with all formalities, provided always that it should be lawful to breakfast *à la fourchette* on their way. The sergeant, having assured himself that everything had been done in due form as befitted an affair of honour, could not dispute the assumption that a déjeuner formed a legitimate and recognised feature in such proceedings. So he mounted the box and gave the word of command to drive to the Café Perigord.

Strensal, some minutes before, had taken leave, charged with the party's compliments to Lord Gaveloch, and their best auguries for his speedy recovery. This, of course, included the Count, who about two hours and a half before had been ardently thirsting for his blood. But your smallsword is a great peacemaker.

(To be continued.)

## TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN,

## ON THE TRUE MORAL OF THE ASTON PARK STORY.

MADAM,—When Mary Queen of Scots asked John Knox who he was that he presumed to meddle with the affairs of the realm, he replied, "Madam, a subject born within the same." I have the same apology at hand, if no other, for writing this letter.

A woman having been killed at Aston Park by a fall from a tight rope your Majesty has been pleased to express to the Mayor of Birmingham the horror (which your subjects share) at the character and sequel of the accident, and your hope (which also your subjects share) that feats of trivial daring, such as have led to the death of this unfortunate creature, under circumstances so truly pathetic, may be discontinued.

I cannot put into words the joy with which I read your Majesty's letter; nor should I now find it easy to express, in language which would appear moderate, the feelings with which I welcome it, as an illustrious instance of the part which character and influence should play in a civilised community.

But my fellow-subject, the Mayor of Birmingham, has, in acknowledging your Majesty's letter, given utterance to a hope that Parliament may interfere to "put down" tight-rope feats of a dangerous character.

I, on the contrary—and I am bold to say that the best brains and hearts in the kingdom and all over the world are with me—venture to hope that your Majesty's Parliament will do nothing of the kind. I do this, not chiefly because all such legislation can be shown to be absurd, nor at all because (as Mr. Gynge has written to the *Times* to say) tight-rope performances have before now received the oblique sanction of the Royal presence, but on this much broader and more important ground: the masses of your Majesty's subjects are already demoralised and degraded by that over-regulation of life—that tanning

\* We read in French novels "un grand monsieur de cinq pieds huit pouces" as the orthodox type of heroic stature. The French foot is nearly thirteen English inches. Five French feet are about five feet four and a half. Eight French or eight and a half English inches, in addition, make this about six feet nine English.



of healthy human instinct—that patterning off into uniformity of characteristic impulses which is the worst bane of civilisation. The very sensationalistic rage which leads people to relish highly-spiced police reports, novels, and public shows is simply one index to the efforts which the raw material of human nature is making to revenge itself upon the artificial overgrowth of law, custom, and cant. If the process which has begun could without check be continued, the vigour of our national character would die of corrosion; would (to change the figure) be trampled out under the petty despotisms of cowardly ignorance.

Of course it would be easy to show that such legislation as has been talked of would be absurd. Shall the proposed Act of Parliament specify the height from the ground at which a rope may be traversed by a gymnast?—the proper width from bar to bar in trapeze performances? May a private citizen stretch a cord between props in his back garden and call his neighbours in? May boys go a bird's-nesting? Shall there be a department of public and private recreation, or an inspector of cricket-fields and nursery-games? Shall the figures of quadrilles be regulated, and the number of whirls in a waltz? And, if not, why not?—because I have repeatedly seen accounts of women dropping dead in ballrooms. Or where shall the line be drawn? Shall it be only blindfold feats that are forbidden? If so, should it not be made penal for any one to sell a sack without asking if it is intended to be used by a gymnast? What is to be done with Alpine Clubs and explorers of dangerous countries? Supposing the claims of "science" to be urged in their behalf, what answer is to be made to any ingenious person who maintains that "science" is concerned in knowing the extreme limits of the difficulties under which human beings can move blindfold through the air, like Spallanzani's mutilated bats? Finally, ought we not, in common consistency, to pass a vote of retrospective execration applying to all expeditions in search of a North-West passage, and send out one more to raze the monumental cairns to Bellot and Franklin?

But all that is suggested by criticism of this kind is so obvious that it need not be pressed for a moment. While I write these lines, I observe that a sailor has been clambering up to the top of Sir Walter Scott's monument in Edinburgh, and playing off at that dizzy height tricks fraught with danger. What possible legislation could provide against such cases? No fear of any attempt at it! There is real cause for alarm, however, in the spirit which permits the bare idea to enter the head of a public officer, and to receive favourable consideration from any portion of the press of your Majesty's kingdoms. It has been said by one of the greatest of our subjects that the impulses towards freedom which began in modern times with the Reformation seem now to have spent their last forces, and that liberty is about to be called upon to encounter a new and desperate peril. What threatens it now is the petty absolutism, not of Popes and Kaisers, but of half-instructed crowds, the Lilliputian tyranny of multitudes who know not what they seek. Whatever progress modern Europe may be supposed to have made, it is only here and there a few who have really grasped the bare axioms of civil freedom. Free trade the multitude understand (more or less), because they have been persuaded that their interests are bound up in it. Religious freedom they also understand (more or less); but even that is imperfectly comprehended. In the number of the *Times* newspaper which contained the letter from a rope-dancer (to which I have already referred) it is said, in a leading article, that, "within reasonable limits, we have learnt to let men's religious convictions look after themselves." Need it be pointed out that the mere use of the clause "within reasonable limits" destroys the value of the rest? It would, in fact, justify any kind or degree of persecution; for it leaves to the ruling power the right of determining what "limits" are "reasonable." Nor does it at all matter whether the ruling power be an Emperor, or a mob, or the represented result of a conflict of mobs; which is another phrase for Parliamentary legislation. The truth is, people will never know the real meaning of freedom in trade and in worship until they have learnt that both kinds of freedom are only segments of a much larger circle, which has yet to be drawn. Many of those who read this letter will, I dare say, be quite staggered to learn from me that no less a man than Archbishop Whately pleads for the repeal of the law forbidding marriage with a deceased wife's sister on the general ground that "every restriction is in itself an evil."

The majority of your Majesty's people have not the least idea of the just function of a Government. That function is not to determine what is right and wrong and make people good, but simply to protect the physical conditions under which your subjects may obey their own consciences. How can a Government—which is an abstraction—have anything to do with right and wrong? Taking it concretely, it is not difficult to conceive a Government of which the chief Minister might be an Anythingarian, the Chancellor of the Exchequer a High Churchman, and the Minister of Education a Positivist. Your Majesty may even know such a Government. And what possible community of opinion on questions of duty can exist in it?

In the multitude conscience is scarcely active at all. What they take for the sentiment of right is the love of power. The average human being likes to force his "principles" on other people. The simplest way of asserting power is, of course, to knock a man down. Another way is to get an Act of Parliament passed, and then the vulgar mind has the pleasure of feeling all the power of the State on the side of its own ideas, and of compelling other people to do as it likes. I will not now trouble your Majesty with the question, which, however, is imminent if Representative Government is to last—the question of the Representation of Minorities. But I will refer briefly to an actual instance or two of the dangers which your subjects incur from that force of an uninstructed public opinion which is rapidly degrading English character. Your Majesty cannot be unaware that we have recently been threatened with a new Sabbatarian Bill. It dealt with a matter of comparatively small importance, but the question of principle involved in such attempts is of vital moment. The theory of social rights upon which all legislation such as that sought to be carried out by Mr. Stansfeld's Bill and by another Bill is founded, has been by Mr. John Stuart Mill (to whom I have already referred) held up to the scorn of thinking people in these very powerful words:—"A theory of social rights," says he, "the like of which probably never before found its way into distinct language, being nothing short of this—that it is the absolute social right of every individual that every other individual shall act in every respect exactly as he ought; that whosoever fails thereof in the smallest particular violates my social right, and entitles me to demand from the Legislature the removal of the grievance. So monstrous a principle is far more dangerous than any single interference with liberty; there is no violation of liberty which it would not justify; it acknowledges no right to any freedom whatever, except perhaps to that of holding opinions in secret without ever disclosing them; for the moment an opinion which I consider noxious passes any one's lips it invades all the 'social rights' attributed to me by the theory. The doctrine ascribes to all mankind a vested interest in each other's moral, intellectual, and even physical perfection, to be defined by each claimant according to his own standard."

But the worst of all is the bare existence of the necessity for such a protest as this. It is an ill omen for true progress, that this new doctrine of mutual vested interests should be, in our own days, so ripe as it really is, and on nearly all sides so menacing; when two centuries ago it was ridiculed as impossible of adoption, and by a man whose name your Majesty could less afford to miss from the roll of English worthies than to lose a million of your living subjects. It was John Milton who wrote thus:—

What more foul, common sin among us than drunkenness? And who can be ignorant that if the importation of wine, and the use of all strong drink, were forbid, it would both clean rid the possibility of committing that odious vice, and men might afterwards live happily and healthfully without the use of those intoxicating liquors? Yet who is there, the severest of them all, that ever propounded to lose his sack, his ale, toward the certain abolishing of so great a sin? Who is there of them, the holiest, that less loves his rich canary at meals, though it be fetched from places that hazard the religion of them who fetch it, and though it make his neighbour drunk out of the same tun? They forbid not the use of that liquid merchandise, which, forbidden, would utterly remove a loathsome sin, and not impair either the health or the refreshment of mankind, supplied many other ways.

To remove a national vice a man will not pardon his cups, nor think it concerns him to forbear the quaffing of that outlandish grape, in his unnecessary fulness, though other men abuse it never so much; nor is he so abstemious as to interfere with the magistrate, that all matter of drunkenness be banished the Commonwealth.

But, wonderful to say, that very intercession which Milton fancied was out of the question is now made by public men in and out of your Majesty's Parliament, and "a large and increasing mass of enlightened public opinion" is quoted in support of it. It is poor consolation to the lovers of truth and freedom that these blind men, leaders and led, know not what they ask, or into what ditch they are hurrying. Every one of these clamourers for legal restrictions upon the sale of strong drinks, the use of the tight rope, and a score of other matters, is sailing upon a line which has no logical terminus short of the rack, the stake, and the thumbscrew.

There is little hope for any man if he have already embarked in the Ship of Fools. But an example, like that furnished by your Majesty in the letter upon which I have ventured to ground this, may deter a few from taking passage in "that fatal, that perilous bark," by recalling their minds to the first principles of moral truth. One of those first principles is, that force can only be justly applied when some right of another is invaded. On no other principle can any theory of human duty consistently be erected;—on no other principle can be kept a clear horizon for the hopes of whose fruition your Majesty's children's children may see more than we. And, indeed, we may perhaps venture to think that the total instincts of your Majesty's People are and will remain in advance of the opinions of any large section of your Majesty's Public. Only in a land where the watchword of men was "Hands off!" could be felt, down to the very centre, so light a touch as that laid by your Majesty's hand upon the popular impulse.

A SOLDIER OF CONSCIENCE, UNATTACHED.

## Literature.

*Victor Hugo: A Life Related by One who has Witnessed it; including a Drama in Three Acts, entitled "Inez de Castro," and other unpublished works. 2 vols. Wm. H. Allen and Co.*

When "*Les Misérables*" was becoming familiar to English readers the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES* published a portrait of M. Victor Hugo, accompanied by a memoir. To the facts recorded in that memoir these volumes, especially the second, add very little that the ordinary male English reader will care about. Intelligent women, however, will find in them a great deal that is entertaining, and men who can get interested in domestic trifles will find their account in the narrative of the early years of the life of this very remarkable man. The whole conception of the thing is, however, so French, and so full of what Englishmen insist on calling vanity, that we cannot prophesy a very large public for this "life" of one of the best and most gifted men that ever existed. We ourselves avow having read greedily the first volume, and having recommended it to a good many other people, who have all been charmed with it; but our pleasure would have been greater if the translation had been better. Here is a sentence from page 43 of volume II:—"These half-naked women, addressing him and each other with so much familiarity, belonged to a sphere very different from that of which his mourning youthfulness had dreamed." What on earth is "mourning youthfulness?" A reader of imagination perfectly well understands that the young Victor, like all good people of his type, had experienced tendencies to asceticism—the asceticism of sensibility, be it observed—at a time when most young men experience nothing but fits of passion, alternating with fits of regret. But it is a great pity that publishers do not choose their translators better. In order to translate properly, a writer requires instantaneous facility in seizing the standpoint of another mind, and a choice of words which nothing but the most extensive culture can supply. What may be done in the way of rendering even foreign poetry into English, may be seen in the fragments of Calderon and Goethe, which have been left us by Shelley—instances which are, of course, familiar to all students of modern literature. And, "once in (what country people call) a blue moon," one does stumble upon a well-translated book. But, generally, publishers seem to fall in with utterly incompetent people.

One great use of a story like this, told simply and without reference to Mrs. Grundy—as it happily is—is that it sets people thinking, by showing them upon what widely-different patterns men and women may, in all relations, live worthily and effectively. Much instruction of the kind may be gathered from these memoirs, and we will not attempt to formalise it. Some of the anecdotes are extremely amusing. There is one, in the first volume, about an escort of cavalry intended to do honour to the Queen of Spain, which was some distance in advance of the Royal carriage, in very sultry weather, and in a totally unsheltered district. The officer in command, a Spanish nobleman, gave orders, when he understood that the Queen was approaching, that the men should make their toilets and put on clean linen in honour of the Sovereign. Accordingly, the gallant and very hot fellows stripped. Here they paused; it was so cool and refreshing. But, while they were having their air-bath, the Royal lady came up, and had to make her way through two thousand soldiers in the act of dressing.

Horribly thrilling is the following:—

### A WOMAN BRANDED.

At Paris, in 1818 or 1819, on a summer's day, towards twelve o'clock at noon, I was passing by the square of the Palais de Justice. A crowd was assembled there around a post. I drew near. To this post was tied a young female, with a collar round her neck and a writing over her head. A chafing-dish, full of burning coals, was on the ground in front of her; an iron instrument, with a wooden handle, was placed in the live embers, and was being heated there. The crowd looked perfectly satisfied. This woman was guilty of what the law calls *domestic theft*. As the clock struck noon, behind that woman, and without being seen by her, a man stepped up to the post. I had noticed that the jacket worn by this woman had an opening behind, kept together by strings; the man quickly untied these, drew aside the jacket, exposed the woman's back as far as her waist, seized the iron which was in the chafing-dish, and applied it, leaning heavily on the bare shoulder. Both the iron and the wrist of the executioner disappeared in a thick white smoke. This is now more than forty years ago, but there still rings in my ears the horrible shriek of this wretched creature. To me, she had been a thief, but was now a martyr. I was then sixteen years of age, and I left the place determined to combat to the last days of my life these cruel deeds of the law.

There cannot be the least doubt that Victor Hugo will, in the history of the literature of nineteenth century, have a very distinguished place among the few who have kept to late grey hairs the crown of their first faiths and hopes. He is as free from all taint of cynicism as when he was a boy, and as full of moral courage as when he saw this poor creature burnt on the back. Therefore, let honour and love wait upon his name for ever! The man who can believe in his kind, and work for them, to the very last, is—we were going to say, is to be pardoned for any amount of vanity; but we will amend the sentence by saying that he shows, by the mere fact of holding fast his idealisms, so strong and overflowing a heart that he is lifted, in other respects, above our criticism.

*A Military View of Recent Campaigns in Virginia and Maryland. By Captain C. C. CHESNEY, R.E., &c. Smith, Elder, and Co.*

Captain Chesney, who is announced as Professor of Military History at Sandhurst, must, *ex officio*, be considered a competent writer upon the subject he has chosen. It does not follow that every Government official must necessarily be ignorant because "things" sometimes go wrong and "departments" disagree; and the care evidently bestowed upon the present compilation is a kind of evidence of love and conscientiousness in similar work which makes up the Professor's duties. Whether the American war be now the end of a beginning or the less glorious beginning of an end, nobody can say; but all must agree that the situation is great and the crisis appalling. At a time when the North is beginning to fight "to some tune," and that in the face of every possible drawback, and when the South has manifested military qualities never dreamed of, and yet has been strangely though slightly reversed, a general glance at the operations in Virginia and Maryland will be found of great use. Captain Chesney professes to write simply from

newspaper accounts, which is modest enough, considering that no other kind of account exists. He has sifted the newspaper accounts with an acuteness which probably would not have accompanied the labours of a literary civilian; and he has puzzled whole masses of his composition with ludicrously bad English, which certainly would not have distinguished the ordinary literary labourer. But, as there was once a distinguished Emperor who held himself to be "above grammar," and as Lord Malmesbury admits that an acute diplomatist may exist without spelling, it is possible that a professor of military history may work well with no heed of relatives, antecedents, &c., with prepositions stuck in anywhere, and with only a flying acquaintance with the subjunctive mood. However, the book is good. Without going over the events of the last eighteen months, our purpose is answered by saying that the American war of that period is given with great care and proportionate value and success. Here and there Captain Chesney ventures an opinion from a military point of view, always with an evidently honest intent, and always convincing to the non-military mind. There is no bias against north or south; but of course the Southern Generals are considered the Generals, being West Point men, and the author a Sandhurst professor; all of which is perfectly right, because the same non-military mind would be able to recognise the fact that a trained officer must be more up to the work than a leading, gouging gentleman, acquainted principally with the practice of the store and the spittoon. From the period of George Bonaparte McClellan taking command, to the splendid series of Southern victories, known as Chancellorsville, the events are hot and interesting—here reading in ship-shape style, instead of as a cloudy series of telegrams and correspondents' misinformation. The effect is that of order, and after a careful reading a far better idea of the whole series of operations will be the result. Not the least important part of the subject has been the object of great care; the geographical features of the country are described with accuracy, which is of the utmost importance, for every action of the war seems to have turned upon a river or a ridge.

Recommending the volume, in leaving it, it is impossible not to allude to the state of society, or "gossip." Since General Lee has met with his first check, English people have forgotten many Southern virtues; and military men, who were astonished at the military merits of Johnston, Jackson, Lee, and Stuart, suddenly remember that numbers of men and infinite supplies must carry the day. Probably, however, there is plenty of pluck still left in the South.

*Sir Everard's Daughter. By JOHN CORDY JEAFFRESON. W. H. Allen and Co.*

Originally published in the *Universal Review*, a journal which was, we believe, entirely its own reward, "*Sir Everard's Daughter*" had no such thing as attention paid to her. Therefore, in her present form—one complete and single volume—she may be looked upon as in her first season, or as "just come out," to adopt the appropriate publishing term. The story has great psychological interest, and in this respect is infinitely superior to any of Mr. Jeaffreson's invariably successful works. The characters are few, but strongly marked, and curious for being broadly drawn, with occasional passages of minuteness in incident thoroughly dramatic and true to life. Without telling the story, it is yet necessary to mention the main idea of the book. Two people are made to stand as obstacles in the way of a youthful couple marrying. The man has a wealthy uncle, the girl has a wealthy brother who comes home to die of Indian fever. The girl cannot help seeing that these people are in the way, and she cannot help seeing the sinfulness of certain ideas. The uncle dies, leaving all his money far away; but when the brother dies the "young people are made happy." Soon afterwards the newly-made husband becomes rich from other causes, and the unhappy wife finds that she but waited she might have enjoyed quite sufficient riches without having been guilty of wishing the deaths of two persons. Her punishment is an inextinguishable state of misery. Her husband dies. Her conduct is unaccountable. To a clergyman she makes a verbal confession that she murdered her brother by giving him an over-dose of some narcotic, and demands to be publicly hanged; but next day she makes a kind of retraction of her story in a letter. Then the question is asked, "Which was the language of truth—her letter or her confession?" And Mr. Jeaffreson winds up with these words:—"Has the writer of these pages an opinion on the matter? Does he think his heroine guilty of the atrocity which she confessed herself to perpetrate? His answer is—She thought the evil; and to think evil is sin. She struggled against the thought; and to combat the tempters of the mind is virtue." In all probability this was intended to be an ingenious psychological puzzle, and is not merely a way of getting out of a story. Concluding that there was such an intention, Mr. Jeaffreson deserves all praise for the ability and success with which he has carried it out. "*Sir Everard's Daughter*" has an interest akin to "*Elsie Venner*," and the "*Blithedale Romance*," and these are favourites in every sensible household.

*The Apostle of the Alps. A Tale. By the Author of "Moravian Life in the Black Forest." Arthur Hall and Co.*

This is a story of the Middle Ages, the scenes being laid in France and the mountains. The youthful Bernard de Menthon prefers a monastic life to matrimony, although he has long been "engaged" to Marguerite. Moreover, he discovers that Marguerite "loves another;" and, moreover, when in the total darkness a sudden illumination plays upon a picture of the "Flight into Egypt," he accepts the heavenly warning and quits his father's house. He becomes a monk, rescues people in distress, founds a hospice in the Alps for the succour of poor travellers, converts robbers, is generally good, meets his parents once more as a celebrated man, and dies happy. Marguerite bestows her hand in the direction long since taken by her heart, has children, one of whom is named Bernard, and the lady is, of course, pious and pleased to the end of her days also. The story is charmingly written, and is full of good description and good counsel. It is a story of "Excelsior," forming no part of the biography of St. Bernard.

*A NEW WAR-VESSEL.*—A new war-vessel is in course of construction at Cincinnati. This strange craft is known as "Elliott's War Turtle." It is shaped like a large punchbowl, with the propeller in the form of a turbine wheel, placed at the bottom, and so arranged as to take water in through eight radial tubes, which may be opened or closed by valves, said tubes connecting with the propeller and outer edge or hull of the vessel. The propeller passes the water downward from its cylinder, and revolves always in the same direction, and when the vessel is to be moved forward in any direction one or more of the valves is opened, thereby relieving the pressure on that side, while the pressure still remains on the opposite side to propel the vessel. The turret is very similar in appearance to those on the monitors, but is built fixedly and firmly on the top of the vessel, and lined inside with heavy timbers. It revolves with the boat by the action of the water upon the rudders placed in the mouth of the radial tubes. It mounts four guns.—*New York World.*

*THE NEW FRENCH ART-MUSEUM.*—The first portion of the Musée Napoléon III., consisting of the pictures of the Campana Collection, has just been opened to the public. It occupies the three great rooms which for a long time contained Louis Philippe's Spanish Collection. The ceilings of these rooms are plain, and the walls of a deep garnet colour, and they are well adapted to show off the pictures to advantage. The collection consists of only 303 paintings out of 646 which composed that of Campana. On examination it proved that many of these works had been greatly over-estimated, and the inferior ones, and those which had been too much re-touched, were excluded. The pictures the authors of which cannot be positively ascertained are grouped according to their periods and their schools; those of the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries will generally be considered the most interesting. The three rooms containing the collection are at the northern extremity of the wing of the colonnade. Following them are six others, turning into the northern wing, and in which have been placed the earthenware of the Campana Collection, combined with that which the Louvre already possessed. These six rooms will be opened, it is said, by the 15th inst., as well as the nine rooms of the southern gallery, formerly occupied by the French school. They will contain the ceramic collection and the bronzes. The jewels are in the south-west room, near the Gallery of Apollo. The Hall of Statues, which is being arranged for the reception of the Sauvageot Collection, is now undergoing decoration; and, as the passage through it is temporarily closed, the southern gallery is now reached by the spiral staircase in the south-west angle. It was by this staircase, which then led from the chapel to the King's apartments, that the body of Henry IV. was taken up when it was brought to the Louvre after his assassination.





NATIONAL MEDAL GIVEN TO SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS IN THE ART-SCHOOLS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.  
(DESIGNED BY M. VECITE.)

MAJOR-GENERAL U. S. GRANT.

In consequence of his success in reducing Vicksburg, the great Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi, the name of General Ulysses S. Grant is perhaps the most popular in the Federal army; and, as the Northerners have not been particularly happy in their military commanders, the friends of the Union, both in England and America, are in the habit of boasting that General Grant, in Yankee parlance, is at least "some." For this boast, moreover, they have considerable justification, for General Grant has been more successful in carrying out his plans than any other of the Federal leaders; and this may be said, notwithstanding our remembrance of a famous bit of braggadocio indulged in by General Halleck in Grant's name, whereby it was made to appear that at Corinth he captured 10,000 of General Beauregard's forces, besides immense quantities of arms

and materials of war. None of those prisoners, however, nor any of those stores, were ever heard of elsewhere than in General Halleck's despatch; and the whole story, besides, was flatly contradicted by General Beauregard, of which contradiction no notice was ever taken by the Federal authorities. But, though General Grant did not beat General Beauregard at Corinth, and did not capture the prisoners and material which he was said to have done on that occasion, his recent successes on the Mississippi fully entitle him to the esteem of his countrymen and to be regarded as the ablest General the North has yet produced.

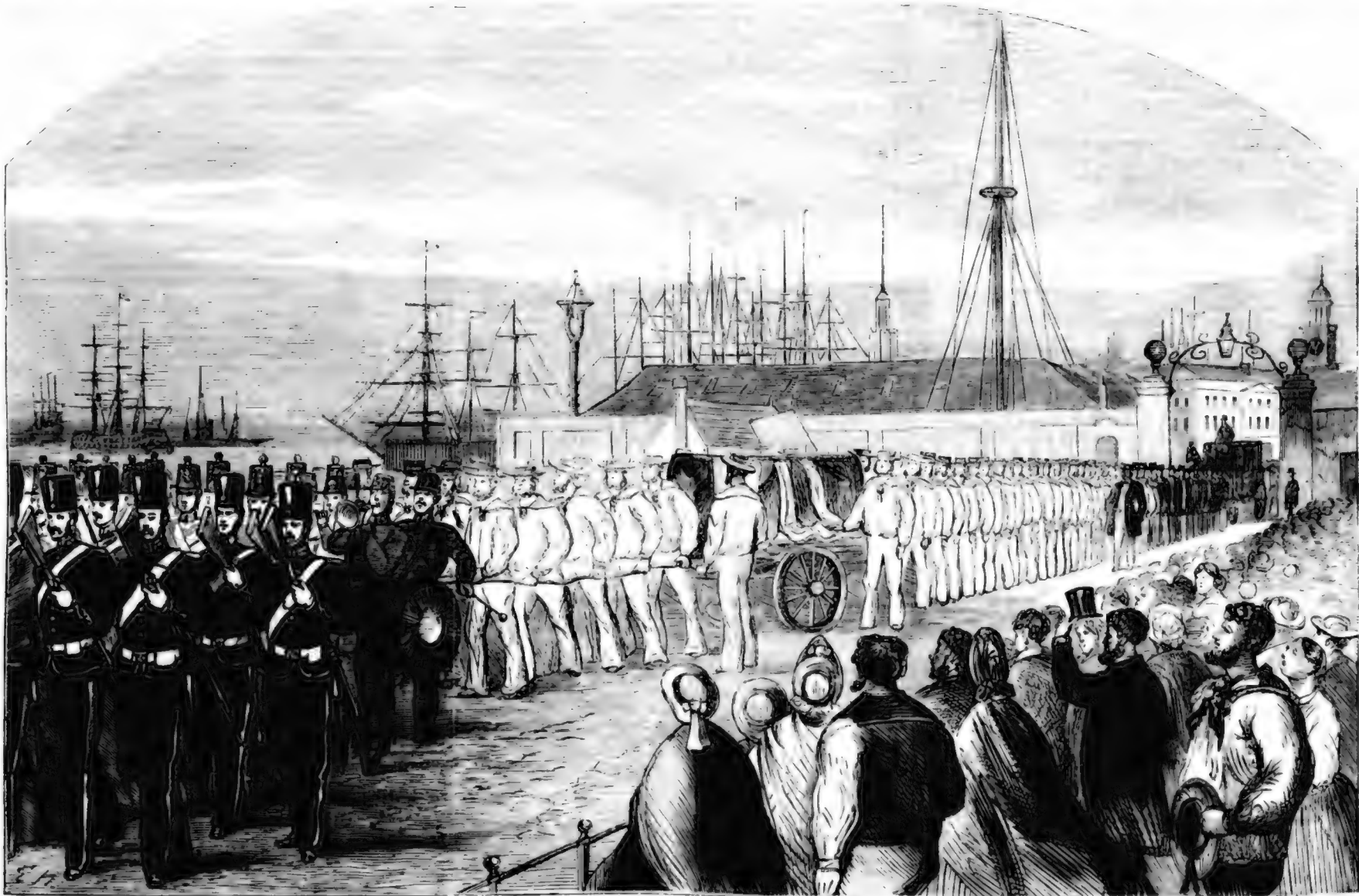
General Grant was born at Point Pleasant, Clairmont County, Ohio, on the 27th of April, 1822, and is consequently forty-one years of age. He entered West Point in 1839, and graduated, in 1843, with Franklin, Reynolds, Steele, &c. Having entered the

4th Infantry, he obtained his full commission at Corpus Christi, Mexico, in 1845, and served at all the battles under General Taylor. His regiment subsequently joined General Scott, and Grant figured conspicuously at all the battles of the campaign. For Molino del Re he got a brevet of First Lieutenant, and for Chapultepec one of Captain. He subsequently obtained his full rank as Captain, and accompanied his regiment to Oregon. In 1854 he resigned his commission and took up his residence at Galena, Illinois.



MAJOR-GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT, COMMANDER OF THE  
FEDERAL FORCES AT VICKSBURG.

On the outbreak of the civil war he tendered his services to Governor Yates, and was shortly afterwards appointed Colonel of the 21st Illinois. On the 17th of May, 1861, he was made a Brigadier-General, and held various commands in Missouri and



FUNERAL AT PORTSMOUTH OF A SEAMAN OF HER MAJESTY'S SHIP RACON.



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.



LEYBOURNE CASTLE.

the vicinity. After the capture of Fort Henry, Feb. 6, 1862, a new district was created, under the denomination of the District of West Tennessee, and General Grant was assigned by General Halleck to the command of it on the 14th of that month. He was in command of the Union forces at Fort Donelson from Feb. 13 to 16, 1862, and his correspondence with General Buckner gained him the sobriquet of "Unconditional Surrender Grant," answering to his initials of U. S. Grant. For the success of that action he was created a Major-General of Volunteers, dating from Feb. 16, 1862. After a few days he was again ordered into the field, and the manner in which he conducted the action at Shiloh, April 6 and 7, 1862, raised him still higher in public estimation.

He was second in command to General Halleck at the noted siege of Corinth, in May, 1862; and when General Halleck was ordered to Washington General Grant was placed in command of the Department of Tennessee, embracing all the country west of the Tennessee River, and on both shores of the Mississippi River, from Corinth to Louisiana. He was now placed in command of the Thirteenth Army Corps, and his troops fought the battles of luka and Corinth, although General Grant did not command in person, being at Jackson, Tennessee, his head-quarters. In December, 1862, he removed his head-quarters to Holly Springs; and on the 22nd of that month, his forces having been greatly increased, he divided them into four corps—viz., the thirteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth corps of the United States' army.



GATEWAY, AYLESFORD PRIORY.



RUINS OF ALLINGTON CASTLE.



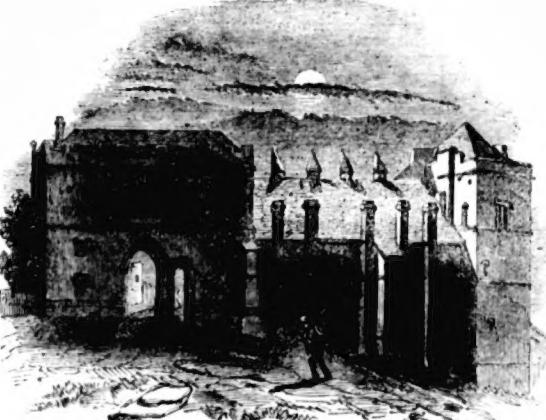
ST. LEONARD'S TOWER.



FOUNTAIN, MALLING ABBEY.



MAIDSTONE CHURCH, FROM THE MEDWAY.



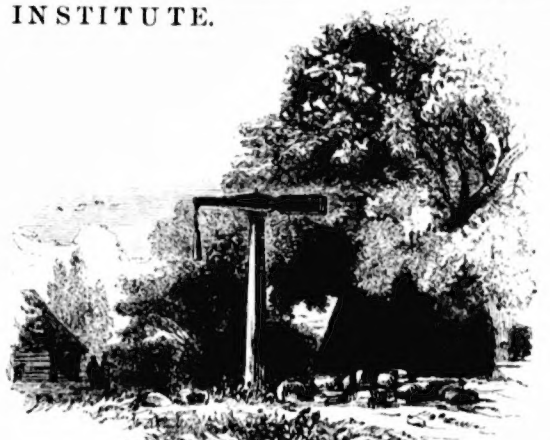
THE COLLEGE, MAIDSTONE.



GATEWAY, ALLINGTON CASTLE.



INNER COURT, ALLINGTON CASTLE.



THE QUINTAIN, OFFHAM.

After the attack and failure of General Sherman at Vicksburg, Dec. 27, 1862, a regular plan of operations had to be worked out, and many schemes were planned and attempted to get into the rear of the Confederate stronghold, either from above or below, among which may be particularised the Yazoo Pass expedition, the Big Sunflower expedition, the Vicksburg Canal, the Lake Providence Canal and Great Union River, and several others; but the one that most effectually contributed to the grand result was the moving down of his troops overland by way of the Louisiana shore, running transports and gun-boats past the Vicksburg batteries, and so carrying the men across the Mississippi to Bruinsburg and landing them under cover of the gun-boats. Each of these manoeuvres occupied time, but, with the exception of the last, were mere feints to draw off the attention of the Confederates from his main movement. With his troops he advanced into the heart of a Secession State, took its capital, and finally compelled the great Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi to surrender. Since then, General Grant has fought actions with General Joseph Johnston's army at Jackson, Mississippi, which he forced the Confederate leader to evacuate, and captured President Davis's private correspondence and library. The latest accounts state that General Grant had returned to Vicksburg, and was preparing to act in concert, it was believed, with the army of General Rosecranz, in Tennessee.

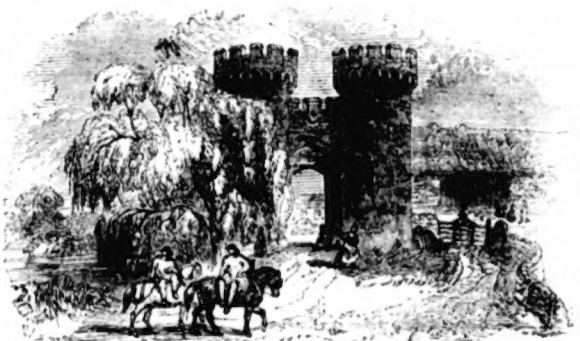
The *New York Herald* says that General Grant is a modest, unassuming man, and on first taking command was regarded as a curiosity by the soldiers on account of his plainness of dress in comparison with the young and new-fledged Colonels and less-advanced



KIT'S COTY HOUSE, NEAR AYLESFORD.



FARMYARD, ALLINGTON CASTLE.



GATEWAY, COWLING CASTLE.



officers, and particularly a shabby stovepipe hat, which he wore for a long time before donning a military headdress. The General is a man of business, and very popular with the troops. He is of sandy complexion, reddish beard, medium height, pleasant, twinkling eyes, and weighs about one hundred and seventy pounds. He smokes continually, and is a very rigid disciplinarian.

### THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS OF ART.

THE report of the examiners for the art-department of the works sent in from the Schools of Art in competition for national medallions states that the number of works locally rewarded and those sent for national competition is increased this year on that of the last, which, as the number of schools remains the same, shows the advanced instruction afforded to the pupils. These numbers are 579 last year, and 651 this year. The examiners notice with satisfaction that the execution of the works submitted to them is freer in manner than heretofore; more attention is given to breadth and relief, combined with truth of detail, and less to the mere executive mode in which those qualities are rendered and expressed. In one or two schools great advance is noticed in studying from the round. The heads of the department consider that the time has arrived when the local schools have become sufficiently advanced in their studies to enable them to train students for masterships up to a certain grade of competency; and a minute has therefore been passed by which no further payments in London will be made to assist students to take the first certificate for a mastership. On the other hand, it is proposed to revert to the system of scholarships in the central school, which had been somewhat prematurely established in the schools of design. These scholarships will be open to competition to the advanced students of all local schools, and the holders of them will have the opportunity of making practical use of the collections of the Art-Museum. In 1862, 8896 children of poor schools in London were taught through the agency of the central school. The total number of schools of art now open in the United Kingdom is ninety. In the central schools 15,908 persons received instruction in the year, in the public schools 71,423. 4672 payments were made to schools of art in respect of results of examinations. Payments on results have for the last ten years formed part of the system by which art-masters have been remunerated, and the working of the system has been such as to justify its complete adoption; minutes have accordingly been prepared extending the application of this principle to all the instruction given in or through the means of art-schools. These minutes will also tend to restrict the aid of the State to those classes that are unable to provide such education for themselves. In the last year 87,389 persons were taught drawing through the agency of the department, the fees paid by them amounting to £18,017. Of this sum £5038 was paid by evening students, who are almost wholly artisans paying not more than 6d. a week for three lessons. Several foreign Governments, from a sense of the great influence of the science and art department on the industrial progress of this country, have made application for detailed information of the working of the department.

Our Engraving represents the medallion presented to successful competitors under the auspices of the department. The medallion is executed in repoussé by M. Vechte. The portrait of her Majesty Queen Victoria occupies the centre of the medallion. M. Vechte explains the allegory thus:—"The principal figure at the top of the medallion is Genius, attended on his left by Justice, Truth, and Science, essential to an academy of artists, and on his right by a student meditating. In the background crouches Jealousy or Ignorance; whilst Fame is proclaiming the merit of the successful student, and Time and a youthful genius hold the shield to receive the student's name." The medallion is executed by means of electrotyping. It was found that the artistic merit of the design was injured by taking the impression in silver, as had been originally intended, and copper has been adopted as giving the best effect to the work. This medallion is given in the yearly national competition of the students of all the art-schools in the United Kingdom.

### PRINCE ALFRED AT A SAILOR'S FUNERAL.

WILLIAM KEELER, a seaman gunner, belonging to her Majesty's steam-corvette *Racoon*, of which Prince Alfred is one of the Lieutenants, lately fell from the maintop and was killed on the spot, his skull having been fractured. The ship reached Portsmouth on Monday, the 3rd inst., and it was decided by the Captain, in accordance with the wish of the ship's company, that the body of the deceased should be interred in the Portsmouth Cemetery. The funeral procession started from the dockyard at two p.m., in the following order:—A firing party of two non-commissioned officers and twelve rank and file of the Royal Marines; then the band of the *Racoon*, twelve in number; a drummer of the Royal Marines; the coffin containing the remains of the deceased, surmounted by the union jack, and on the carriage of a field-piece drawn by twenty seamen of the *Racoon*; then the seamen of the ship, ninety in number, all attired in clean white drill frocks and trousers; then Captain Count Gleichen and the whole of the officers, with the exception of Prince Alfred and the First Lieutenant, H. W. Miller; then a mourning-coach conveying the relatives of the deceased. On arriving at the cemetery the procession was joined by Prince Alfred, who had preceded the cortege in a cab, accompanied by Major Cowell. His Royal Highness was attired in the undress uniform of a Lieutenant. The corpse was conveyed into the cemetery chapel, and by the grave the burial service of the Church of England was performed by the Rev. William Lake Onslow, A.M., Chaplain of the *Racoon*, assisted by the Rev. C. W. Sohr, Vicar of Bedingham, Norfolk. Three volleys were fired over the grave by the firing party of the Royal Marines, and the procession then re-formed and returned to the dockyard. When the funeral ceremony was concluded, his Royal Highness, in company with Major Cowell and the Rev. Mr. Onslow, left the cemetery in a cab for the railway terminus.

### THE GALA WEEK OF THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

OUR last week's notice of the proceedings of the institute left the members on their Maidstone jaunt. At Maidstone, the fine old parish church, with its pinnacled shrine, its canopied and other tombs, was of course an object of much attraction. The college, too, which stands a little to the south of the church, was thoroughly explored. This foundation dates back to the year 1391; but it existed only for a century and a half, having been suppressed in 1538. The gatehouse shown in our Engraving is a tolerably perfect specimen of the undecorated architecture of the period. The archiepiscopal palace, where Archbishop Chicheley entertained Henry VI., and which, like the church and college, is situated on the banks of the Medway, was also visited, when the peculiarities of the fine old barn in front of the building were pointed out by Mr. Beresford Hope. The members next proceeded to Chillington House, and then inspected the curious old vaulted cellars at Gabriel's Hill, to which Mr. Parker acted as guide. A visit to Allington Castle, the birthplace of the Wyatts, terminated the day's proceedings. This interesting ruin is within a walk of Maidstone, and the buildings, now converted into a farm-house, with their double court and numerous adjacent offices, occupy a considerable space of ground. Our illustrations will give some idea of their character. On the attainer of Sir Thomas Wyatt the younger, son of the poet whose nervous verses to his "own John Pointz," and whose plaintive song to his lute will keep him in remembrance with all the lovers of our old English literature, Allington Castle was confiscated to the Crown, when the building was dismantled, and the park by which it was surrounded given up to cultivation.

In the evening, after the return of the members of the institute to Rochester, the temporary museum at the Corn Exchange was lighted up, when a large company assembled. Among its many objects of attraction may be mentioned the examples from the famous collection of Anglo-Saxon antiquities found in Kent, formed by Mr.

Faussett, and now the property of Mr. Joseph Mayer, who liberally permitted them to be removed from Liverpool for this occasion. Mr. Gibbs's scarcely less important collection of Anglo-Saxon antiquities found in various parts of Kent since the year 1848 were exhibited in glass cases adjacent. The famous Anglo-Saxon brooch, found at Minster, in Kent, the property of Earl Amherst, was also shown. An extensive and very fine selection of armour was contributed by the War Office from the Tower of London; and two curious examples of naval architecture were exhibited by permission of her Majesty: the one a large painting, from Hampton Court Palace, representing the embarkation of Henry VIII. for France, in 1520, displaying the famous ship *Harry Grace à Dieu*; the other a case, from Windsor Castle, containing two card models, ingeniously made to fold into a flat book, of the Diamond and Greyhound ships, dated 1731. The ancient keys of Dover Castle were also on view, by permission of the Commander-in-Chief. The seal of the Constable of Dover Castle was exhibited by Mr. E. Knecker. Mr. Willement contributed a unique brigandine cap made of small iron plates quilted in linen cloth, found concealed in the wall-plate of the roof of Davington Church. Mr. Edmund Waterton displayed his unrivalled collection of rings of all periods; and a handsome silver pomander was exhibited by Mr. Samuel Bartlett. Various objects of metal-work were contributed by Mr. John Henderson, especially a fine Indian "scratchback," a Russian silver bowl, and two Russian drinking-cups from the Soltykoff Collection. Two curious horn-books, respectively the property of Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson and Mr. E. W. Cooke, A.R.A., attracted considerable attention. The local history and features of Rochester were fully illustrated by numerous contributions: "Rochester Castle," a water-colour drawing by J. M. W. Turner, the property of Dr. Herring; "Old Rochester Bridge," a large oil-painting belonging to the bridge-wardens; a curious collection of tradesmen's tokens, belonging to Strood; a series of original charters of the city of Rochester, dated respectively 1227, 1265, 1377, and 1446; the manuscript of Roger Manwood's discourse about Rochester Bridge of the time of Queen Elizabeth; and a transcript of the Textus Roffensis belonging to the Society of Antiquaries of London, who also contributed a volume of heraldic collections from Canterbury Cathedral and a collection of arms of the Gentlemen of Kent, about 1580. The Corporation of the city of Dover exhibited a charter of Queen Anne appointing the Corporation water-bailiffs of the liberty. The silver seal of the Chancery and Admiralty of the Cinque Ports was lent by Mr. E. Knecker; and Mr. J. Henderson contributed two fine drawings, by J. M. W. Turner, of Dover Harbour in 1792 and 1793.

An extensive series of very rare early-printed books illustrated the labours of William Caxton, our proto-typographer, who was born, according to his own statement, in the Weald of Kent. The Rev. Fuller Russell exhibited various volumes containing the autographs of Henry VIII., the Protector Somerset, Martin Luther; Thomas Gray, the poet; John Poynt, Bishop of Rochester, 1550; John Tradescant, Hugh Latimer, Ben Jonson, Beza; Hooper, Bishop of Gloucester, and many others. A curious manuscript volume of the expenses of Charles Stuart, Duke of Richmond, at Cobham Hall, was exhibited by Mr. F. W. Fairholt. Mr. Beresford Hope contributed a curious small carved triptych, supposed to be of Scandinavian work, and a remarkable wooden teredos of Norman design, probably executed in Breton during the fifteenth century. Numerous objects of jewellery formed an attractive feature in the museum, among which may be named a curious silver-gilt reliquary in the form of the figure of a deacon holding a book; an enamelled portrait of Francis I., in profile; a polychrome made to close round a statue of the Virgin and Child and form the base of a golden cross, belonging to Mr. Farrer; an enamel chalice, contributed by the Rev. Fuller Russell; various jewels, rings, and gold keys, belonging to Mr. W. Sankey; and a very fine pectoral ornament of ivory, gold, and niello-work, the property of Mr. Octavius Morgan, M.P. Numerous and very fine specimens of ivory carvings were contributed by Mr. J. Bowyer, the Rev. Fuller Russell, Mr. Edward Hawkins, Mr. Rhode Hawkins, Mr. E. W. Cooke, A.R.A., the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mrs. Waterton, and the Hon. Sir John Bligh. Among the contributions of the latter gentleman may be particularised a curious ivory horn, once owned by Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden. Various portraits also decorated the walls of the museum. Among the most interesting were Camden, the antiquary, contributed by Marquis Camden; W. Lambard, the Kentish antiquary, the property of Mr. W. Lambard; and Anne Stanhope, Duchess of Somerset, belonging to Earl Stanhope, who likewise contributed a small full-length portrait of King George I., presented by that monarch to the first Earl. A curious portrait of James I. had been contributed by the late Mr. W. Clayton, of Dover. It represents the King in a tall hat, with a remarkable jewel in it. Major Luard exhibited an interesting profile portrait of Edward VI., carved in oak; and Mr. Edward Pretty several portraits and miniatures of great interest, among them one of Lady Rachel Russell. The Rev. James Beck contributed specimens of metal-work and various miniatures; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer exhibited a deep plate of rare Tuscan porcelain, made under Francesco de' Medici, in 1580. Only thirty pieces of this fabric are known.

On Monday the sections of Architecture and Ancient and Medieval Antiquities resumed their sittings at the Guildhall, when the first paper read was "On the Mint of Rochester," by Mr. E. Hawkins. Mr. Beresford Hope next held forth with some "General Considerations on the Church Architecture of South-Eastern England." The last paper was by the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne, "On the Architectural History of Rochester Castle;" after which Mr. Hartshorne and a numerous party proceeded to the castle and inspected the ruins, as we have already mentioned. In the afternoon the members of the institute visited Stone Church, near Dartford, and the churches of Dartford, Darenth, and Horton Kirby. In the evening a paper was read by Mr. J. G. Waller, "On the Sepulchral Bronzes found in Kent." Tuesday was the closing day, when a meeting of the presidents and members of the various sections was held in the Guildhall for the transaction of the general business of the institute; after which the sections of History, Architecture, and of Early and Medieval Antiquities resumed their sittings at the Guildhall. In the afternoon the members of the institute proceeded to Cliffe, supposed to be the ancient Cloveshoe, where two synods of the early Christian Church were held during the Saxon period, when they inspected the church, an embattled structure of ancient date, built in the form of a cross, having several windows of elegant tracery, and a handsome carved roof, on which may be discerned the arms of Archbishop Arundel, who presided at the trial for heresy of Sir John Oldcastle, the staunch Lollard, who was burnt at the stake, and whose stronghold, Cowling Castle, was next visited by the members of the institute. The fine stone gateway exists in a good state of preservation, and on it still remains the old brass tablet set up by John de Cobham, by whom the edifice was built. The inscription is quaint enough:—

Knoweth that both and shall be,  
That I am made in helpe of the centre.  
In knowinge of whiche thinge,  
This is charrte and wytnesing.

The above was intended as a blind to divert any suspicions the reigning Sovereign might entertain as to John de Cobham's motive for fortifying his ordinary dwelling, as an ordinance had only recently been issued expressly forbidding the erection of any new strongholds by the unruly nobles of the period. It was to Cowling that young Wyatt proceeded when he raised the men of Kent, and here he met with his first repulse at the hands of his kinsman, Sir George Brooke, Baron of Cobham, who, as we have already mentioned, built Cobham Hall. A portion of the members next visited Upnor Castle, erected for the better protection of Chatham Dockyard during the reign of Elizabeth. This excursion wound up the proceedings of a most agreeable week, and the congress then broke up.

VESSELS arrived at Greenock report the Atlantic to have been as smooth as a millpond for days, without a breath of wind and scarcely any perceptible swell; and one ship was becalmed for fourteen days about 150 miles off the Irish coast, a remarkable occurrence in a quarter of the globe notorious for the opposite extreme of weather.

### OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE opera season was brought to a final termination on Monday last by an extra performance at Her Majesty's Theatre for the benefit of Mr. Mapleson. The second act of "Faust" was given after "Il Trovatore," and this "combined entertainment" was duly appreciated by a large audience who had assembled to do honour to the enterprising manager. On the previous Saturday the last complete performance of "Faust" had attracted the largest audience of the season; and, indeed, the cheap extra nights seem to have proved in the highest degree successful.

The only respite accorded to the chronicler of musical events has just been taken away by Mr. Mellon. In the autumn of 1860 this popular conductor gave a short series of promenade concerts in the then recently-erected Floral Hall, and in the following year he moved his gigantic orchestra into the theatre itself, the glass-roofed edifice proving, it was said, too resonant for the comfort of those who dwell in its immediate vicinity. Last year Mr. Harrison, with his English opera, trod so closely on the footsteps of Mr. Gye, in his endeavour to seize the latest visitors to the International Exhibition, that Mr. Mellon had no chance of obtaining a hearing. This year, however, he has again come forward to fill up the hiatus that formerly divided the Italian from the English operatic seasons. The time of year is most unfortunate for theatrical ventures. Not even a life-long residence in London altogether reconciles an inhabitant to the total want of fresh air; and we can scarcely blame the inveterate pleasure-seeker if in the dog-days he seeks it at Richmond or at Sydenham—nay, even at Cremorne—rather than in Covent-garden Theatre. There are many persons, however, who are compelled to spend their evenings in town, and to those Mr. Mellon's concerts will be a great boon. We rather wonder that he has not opened the Floral Hall as a lounge; and, indeed, it is a great pity that this elegant building has not been turned to proper account during the opera season. It might be converted into the most splendid and agreeable *foyer* in the world.

In the arrangements of his programme, Mr. Mellon has followed carefully the model framed by his predecessor, Jullien. Like the famous "Mons" of *Punch*, he gives one or two movements from a symphony, and in this respect the borrowed "custom would be more honoured in the breach than in the observance." The scherzo and adagio from the Choral Symphony, played on Monday night in the reversed order, produced no effect whatever; and it would have been far better to omit them altogether than give so unsatisfactory an illustration of the most abstruse instrumental work ever penned. Mr. Mellon would do far better to give invariably an entire symphony as the first piece in the programme. To the real lovers of good music a symphony well played would be more than worth the price of admission, while it could not interfere with the enjoyment of those to whom classical works are distasteful. Auber's Exhibition March, Meyerbeer's Exhibition Overture, Weber's Invitation à la Valse, instrumented by Berlioz, and the overture to "Fra Diavolo," were all played with splendid spirit by the capital orchestra of nearly one hundred performers which Mr. Mellon has collected together. Only two pieces of dance music, the Patti Polka and the Dramatic College Quadrille, both from the conductor's own pen, were to be found in the programme; but, on the other hand, there was an unusual number of instrumental solos, the most remarkable being Mr. Carrodus's clever performance of Herr Molique's fandango, as a legitimate display; and a fantasia on the mandoline by a Signor Gianni Vailati, as an illustration of misspent energy. Mlle. Carlotta Patti astonished her hearers by her extraordinary vocal feats in three of her most popular solos, and delighted them by her singular version of "Coming thro' the rye." There was also some "pantomime music" in the shape of a "comic fantasia" on "Three blind mice," which served its purpose of exciting the merriment of the audience. Mr. Mellon, it is needless to add, conducted with his accustomed energy and skill, and was heartily applauded by the singularly large audience whom he had tempted into the hot theatre. It seems that he intends to devote one evening a week to classical music, another to an oratorio performance, and a third to the volunteers.

THE LATE ACCIDENT ON THE LYNN AND HUNSTANTON RAILWAY.—The evidence taken before the inquest on the persons killed on the Lynn and Hunstanton Railway was concluded on Monday. Among other matters a report from Captain Tyler, the Government inspector, was read. The fences, he said, had got somewhat out of order, the ditch was dry, and the sides were broken down, which allowed cattle to pass. The company were now taking effectual precautions. The Coroner then summed up, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," but declared that it arose from the gross negligence of the company in neglecting the fences, and in the disgraceful state of the carriages employed. They also censure the Government inspector for having certified a line as safe that was so inadequately fenced.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP SWIMMING-MATCH.—The final deposit of £20 a side in the great swimming-race for the champion cup and £200, between E. B. Mather, of Manchester, the champion, and P. Beckwith, of London, has been placed in the hands of the stakeholders. The race excites a deal of interest in sporting circles from the fact that Beckwith, who held the championship for so many years, has not been engaged in a match since he defeated Walker in 1859; while his opponent, who is some sixteen years his junior, has maintained his title to the cup since August last. Mather has arrived in London, and is training at Putney, while Beckwith has taken up his quarters in the vicinity of Hampton. The race takes place on Monday afternoon next, from Hammersmith to Putney, and will be accompanied by two steam-boats, the men having agreed to contest the race between the two boats.

THE ARCHDUKE MAXIMILIAN.—The Archduke Ferdinand William Joseph Maximilian, who has been elected Emperor of Mexico, is the brother of the Emperor of Austria, and was born on the 6th of July, 1832, so that he is now thirty-one years of age. He is a Vice-Admiral, a member of the Admiralty Council, Commandant of the Austrian navy, Proprietor of the 8th Regiment of Austrian Lancers, and head of the 3rd Prussian Regiment of the Neumark Dragoons. He married, on the 27th of July, 1857, the daughter of the King of the Belgians. The Archduke Maximilian was Governor-General of the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom until 1859.

THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.—The working of the Metropolitan line by the Great Western Railway Company having ceased on Monday evening, the traffic was worked Tuesday morning by the Great Northern Company on the narrow-gauge rails. Whether owing to the want of adequate rolling stock or to some imperfection in the arrangements, great inconvenience to the public was occasioned by delays in the trains. At King's-cross station such was the state of things that the clerks declined at any period to take money from intending passengers. The train leaving Bishop's-road station at 9.30 was drawn by an old engine which, it is alleged, was out of order, and no sooner had the train left the station than the engine ran off the line, causing considerable alarm to the passengers, none of whom, however, were hurt. Assistance was procured, and in a short time the engine was lifted on to the rails. A temporary stoppage of the traffic occurred.

NEW TUBER.—Among the exotics recently introduced into France is a new tuber, brought from Peru by M. Cochet, who has resided twenty years in South America. This new plant has been cultivated for two years in the Jardin d'Acclimatation of the Bois de Boulogne, and has passed two winters without requiring more attention than the potato. Besides its nutritive and medicinal properties, it is very rich in sugar, of a quality superior to that of beetroot. The yield of this plant will average sixty tons per English acre. In honour of its introducer, this valuable root is called the *Poire de terre Cochet*.

RE-UNION.—Do the New Hampshire democrats suppose for one moment that we could so much as think of re-union with such a people? Rather let one be wedded to a corpse! Rather join hands with a fiend from the pit! We exhausted conciliation before we separated. Thereafter there was not room for so much as a thought of re-union. We had buried our dead out of our sight, and the mourners had become comforted. Since that time our false allies have been our vindictive foes. We have ten thousand atrocities to remember against them. The blood of many thousands of martyrs is between them and us. A thousand feelings of horror repel the bare idea of a renewal of association.—*Richmond Sentinel*.

THE PRESS IN NEW ZEALAND.—There are now no less than six daily newspapers published in the above-named colony—viz., *Daily Times*, the *Telegraph*, and the *Evening News* in Dunedin; the *Southern Cross* and *New Zealand* in Auckland; and the *Press* in Christchurch. We are not quite certain that, in addition to these, there is not a small daily paper published at the Dunstan diggings. Of these several are old-established journals, but their publication in a daily form is of quite recent date. The newspapers published in New Zealand now number twenty-three, besides those published at the Otago diggings, concerning which we have no accurate knowledge. Auckland has three papers, two daily and one weekly; Taranaki, two weekly; Hawke's Bay, two weekly; Wellington, two semi-weekly and one published three times a week; and Wanganui, one weekly. Nelson has two semi-weekly papers; Marlborough, one weekly; Canterbury, one daily and two semi-weekly; Otago, three daily and two weekly; and Southland, two weekly.



M. DUNLOP, Glasgow, drysalter.—J. RICHARDSON, Annan, grocer.—J. DEWAR, Auchtermuchty, boot and shoe maker.



